

Big powers ponder moves

UNITED STATES (AP) — Representatives from the United States, Britain, France, the Soviet Union and China Saturday discussed moves to put more pressure on Iraq to force a withdrawal of troops from Kuwait. The private meeting at the French mission focused on sweeping sanctions sought by the United States against Iraq for defying a U.N. Security Council resolution demanding an immediate Iraqi pullout and calling for urgent negotiations between Iraq and Kuwait. Diplomats said they were preparing this weekend for another emergency session of the Security Council on the Iraqi invasion. As the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, the United States, China, Britain, France and the Soviet Union each has veto power over council resolutions. Therefore, each of these countries would have to support proposed efforts before U.N. sanctions could be imposed. In the past, China has been reluctant to impose U.N. sanctions. U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering said the United States seeks wide-ranging sanctions covering economic, trade, financial and military aspects. The military measures would include an embargo on arms, military supplies, training and equipment. (see page 7)

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Cabinet endorses W. German loan

AMMAN (Petra) — The Council of Ministers Saturday endorsed a financial agreement with the Federal Republic of Germany involving a 55 million mark loan (approximately JD 16 million) to the government. The decision came after a Cabinet meeting presided by Prime Minister Mudar Badran. The loan is to finance the industrial and trade reform programme.

'Informant' killed

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — An Arab man accused by fellow Palestinians of being an informant for Israel was found dead on Saturday in the West Bank town of Jenin, residents said. They said Mahmoud Dhiab Jabarin, 48, had apparently been stabbed to death. An Israeli army patrol took the body for an autopsy, they said. An army spokesman said only that a body was found and police were investigating. Residents said Jabarin had been living in the West Bank city of Nablus for more than 18 months because activists had expelled him from Jenin as an admitted Israeli informant. He was visiting his hometown when he disappeared about 10 days ago, an apparent kidnapping victim, they said.

Corpses evacuated from Lebanon war zone

SIDON, Lebanon (R) — Rival Shiite militias battling for control of a South Lebanon ridge observed a ceasefire for the second day Saturday to let the Red Cross bring out dead and wounded. A 14-vehicle convoy entered the villages of Jarjeel and Kfar Milki to collect some 40 corpses lying in the streets. Red Cross sources said. On Friday the organisation brought out 60 bodies and four sick or wounded civilians. Hizbollah, the Syrian-backed Arab and Amal's temporary allies from the Palestine Liberation Organisation silenced their guns as relief workers moved into the battle zone.

UAE cancels celebrations

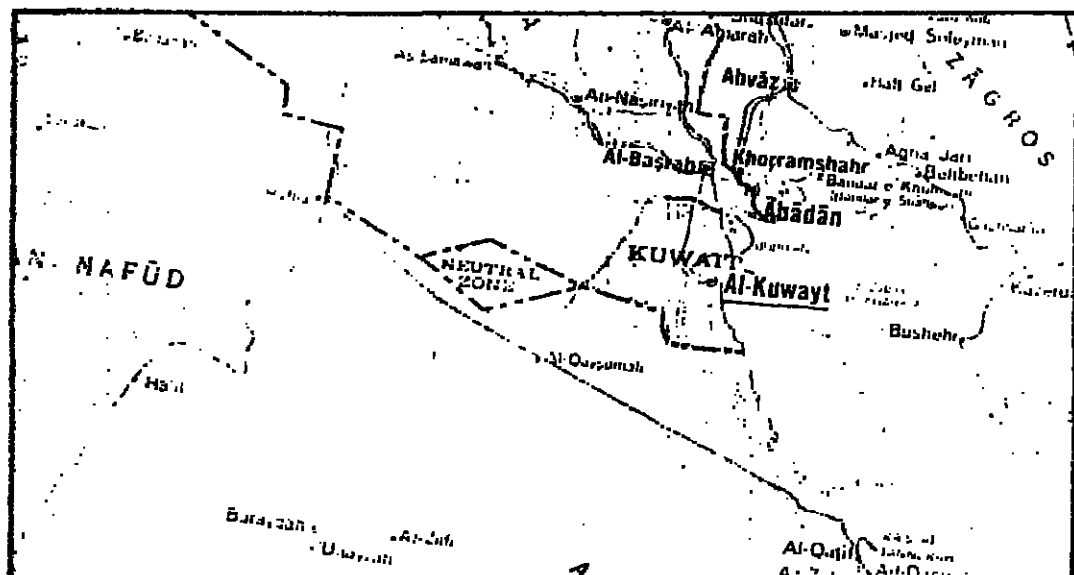
ABU DHABI (R) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has cancelled ceremonies to mark President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan's accession to power, in the largest of the emirates, Abu Dhabi, due to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. The official Emirates news agency WAM said all festivities, scheduled for Monday, were cancelled "due to events in the region." Labourers in Abu Dhabi worked through the night to remove three million coloured lights put up along the streets in readiness for the planned celebrations.

Pakistani opposition plans new effort

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan's opposition said Saturday it planned a fresh effort to topple Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto through a no-confidence vote in parliament. "The political considerations prevailing in the country, with the added advantage of a rift in the Pakistan People's Party ranks, are conducive for such a move," opposition leader Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi told reporters. The last attempt to unseat Bhutto and her People's Party (PPP) government narrowly failed last November when the opposition fell 12 votes short of winning a majority. Jatoi, parliamentary leader of the Combined Opposition Party (COP), said a motion of no confidence would be moved after the assembly reconvened Aug. 8.

Finn heads U.N. Mideast truce body

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Major-General Hans Christensen of Finland was named as the new chief of staff of the U.N. Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO), which monitors armistice agreements between Israel and its Arab neighbours dating back to 1949. Christensen, who takes up his Jerusalem-based appointment on Oct. 26, will succeed Lieutenant-General Martin Vadset of Norway, who has held the post for more than three years.



Iraq denies its army entered neutral zone

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iraq Saturday denied reports that Iraqi troops had entered the oil-rich neutral zone between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

Kuwaiti officials, who are not in Kuwait and who asked not to be identified, had told Reuters by telephone that Iraqi troops had advanced to within less than two kilometres of the Saudi border. In Baghdad, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) quoted an Iraqi official as describing the report as "false news."

The Kuwaiti officials said the Iraqis went into the zone, whose resources are shared by Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, on Friday. The thrust, if confirmed, would be the farthest south the Iraqi army has advanced since Thursday's pre-dawn attack on its Kuwait.

A high-ranking Saudi official said no Iraqi troops had entered Saudi Arabia. "The kingdom does not allow any infringement on its territory," he added, speaking on condition he not be named.

The Iraqi News Agency said Iraq had no intention of entering Saudi territory.

"Saudi Arabia is a brother country with which we have good relations," said the denial. "It is a

completely different case from Kuwait... where the new regime asked for help from Iraq."

Residents of the Saudi border city of Khafji, reached by telephone, said earlier that the Iraqi troops were only 1.5 kilometres away where they had stopped and set up a checkpoint.

The Washington Post said U.S. intelligence officials monitored a new buildup of 100,000 Iraqi troops in Kuwait south of the capital and near the border with Saudi Arabia.

It said the original 100,000-man Iraqi force was augmented Friday by fresh troops moving down from Iraq and freeing the force from garrison in the capital.

The distance from the southern outskirts of Kuwait City to the border is about 65 kilometres.

A Saudi-based executive working for the Japanese-Arabian Oil Company, which has concessions in the zone, told Reuters on Saturday: "Iraqi forces have not entered the Saudi sector."

Washington has reported a massive Iraqi troop presence near the Saudi frontier in southern Kuwait. Quoting U.S. intelligence monitoring, the Washington Post put the figure at 100,000 men.

Gulf-based oil analysts said Ira-

qi troops might have entered the zone unaware that they had left Kuwaiti territory proper.

The zone, roughly square-shaped desert stretch along the Gulf, is populated only by bedouin nomads and oil workers. It is technically known as the Partition Neutral Zone (PNZ).

Oil production in the zone, shared equally by Saudi Arabia and Kuwait under an agreement dating back to 1966, has been declining steadily in recent years after reaching a high of 400,000 barrels per day (bpd) in the early 1980s.

Kuwaiti sources said there had been plans to boost its current output of less than 200,000 bpd.

Getty Oil, a subsidiary of the U.S. giant Texaco Inc. owns the refinery in the zone, employing 800 people, including 17 Americans. Texaco officials said all the employees were safe.

PNZ revenues estimated at \$8 billion were donated to Iraq from 1983 to 1988 to help Baghdad in its war with Iran.

Gulf sources have said that Kuwaiti Finance Minister Sheikh Ali Khalifa Al Sabah — one of the best-known figures in the oil world — escaped to Saudi Arabia

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Crews of all ships said seized in Kuwait

MANAMA (AP) — Gulf shipping sources said Saturday that Iraqi troops seized the crews of all ships docked at Kuwait ports and impounded the vessels.

No reason for the measure was announced, but there has been at least one skirmish in a Kuwait port between a Kuwaiti naval patrol boat and Iraqi forces on shore.

The crews seized were from many nations, the sources said, including at least 20 Americans and some Iranians. They were

taken to an undisclosed location. "All seamen irrespective of nationality were taken off the ships and are under Iraqi control, said it arrested, call it seized," said one shipping executive, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"There were plenty of ships of all nationalities" in Kuwait waters at the time of the invasion, he said.

The name of the impounded American ship was not known. The original name given by the

sources for the ship — Sea Wolf — proved erroneous. The sources were checking to determine the correct name and ownership.

The American ship was docked at Shuwaikh port, the main port of Kuwait city, said the sources.

They said two Iranian ships, Iran Hormuz and Safer, were also seized.

The State Department has already asked the Iraqi government to confirm the whereabouts of 14 missing American oil workers. (see page 7)

House urges foreign powers not to interfere

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Lower House of Parliament Saturday called on all foreign powers to refrain from any intervention in the Iraq-Kuwait dispute and expressed hope that there could soon be an Arab solution for the problem within the framework of the Arab League and Arab institutions. House Speaker Suleiman Arar, in a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said Saturday.

"We do not want any foreigner to meddle in inter-Arab issues because we know only too well some foreign powers' aims and objectives," Arar said in a statement following a parliament session attended by Prime Minister Mudar Badran and cabinet ministers.

All "deputies commend the efforts of His Majesty King Hussein to end inter-Arab differences and the House appreciates the Jordanian government's endeavours and moves under these difficult circumstances through which the Arab World is going," Arar said.

He said the Lower House had formed a special committee to follow up the details of developments in the Gulf. This committee will convene Sunday to discuss the issue and take proper steps regarding these developments, he added.

Petra said that Badran briefed the House on the situation in the Gulf and the meeting was held behind closed doors at the deputies' request to hear from the prime minister the various developments in the Gulf.

According to Arar, the deputies asked questions and received replies from the prime minister.

The meeting was preceded by a House's regular session, which was scheduled to discuss the question of investments in continuation of last Saturday's discussion.

But the deputies were unanimous in demanding that the government provide a briefing on the last situation.

The deputies said in their speeches that the situation in the

Gulf region can have a direct impact on Jordan, according to Petra.

Dr. Ahmad Innab said that the House should formally discuss the situation because the Iraqi-Kuwaiti issue had a direct bearing on the whole Middle East region.

Taber Al Masri said a session should be held after the Jeddah summit Sunday to discuss the Gulf dispute.

Deputies Hosni Shiyab, Mohammad Abu Fares, Salim Zoubi, Thouqan Hindawi and others said there was direct link between the Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine and the ongoing developments in the Gulf and the situation was dangerous enough to justify a special Parliament session to discuss the situation.

But Badran said that there can be no such discussion during the extraordinary session in accordance with the articles of the Constitution.

However, he said, there can be a special closed meeting outside the House.

King: 'Premature' Arab League censure of Iraq scuttled Jeddah summit

'Give us a chance to solve our own problems'

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein said Saturday that the Arab League's decision to condemn Iraq's takeover of Kuwait was "premature" and scuttled efforts to bring about a mini-Arab summit which was due to be held Jeddah Sunday. The decision, came against an agreement between himself, Egyptian President Mubarak and others upon which "I was sent to Baghdad," His Majesty said in an interview with ITN, Independent Television Network of Britain.

King Hussein reiterated his belief that the Arab League's

decision adversely affected Arab efforts at reaching a comprehensive solution to the Iraqi-Kuwaiti conflict but pledged that these efforts will continue on bilateral basis.

Although he said that the Iraqi take-over of Kuwait was "very sad," and that Jordan was "always against the use of force to solve problems," the King pointed out that "it did not come out of the blue."

The King added that there were historical reasons for the conflict which many previous Iraqi and Kuwaiti regimes had to grapple with. The problems

had reached the point of being "ominous" during the Baghdad Arab summit last May, the King said, until "finally it erupted."

He stressed Jordan's feeling of responsibility and role to play in bringing the situation under control, but underlined the need that any such efforts should remain "within an Arab context."

In answer to a question on whether the King's sentiments lay with the "winner," His Majesty said: "I am not siding



(Continued on page 6)

Summit delayed — Mubarak

ALEXANDRIA (Agencies) — A mini Arab summit to discuss Iraq's take-over of Kuwait will not take place as planned Sunday, President Hosni Mubarak said Saturday.

In his first comment on the Iraqi take-over, Mubarak said Arab leaders had not finalised a plan which they hoped would

bring about a withdrawal of Iraqi troops and restore Kuwait's Emir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah.

The Egyptian president warned of the "disgrace" of Arabs if they failed to resolve the crisis and allowed foreign powers to intervene.

"We have not decided yet on

the summit. We are still making efforts to lay the basis for solving the problem on the basis of withdrawal of Iraqi troops and no overthrow of the regime at all," Mubarak told a news conference.

He said he hoped Arab leaders could come up for a plan for a summit "within 48 hours."

"Arab efforts must succeed so

that we do not need at all for foreign powers to solve our Arab problems or that would be a disgrace on our Arab nation," Mubarak stressed.

The Egyptian president spoke in this Mediterranean city after a two-and-a-half hour meeting with

(Continued on page 6)

Kuwait provisional government named

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq Saturday announced a provisional government for Kuwait consisting of nine men it identified as Kuwaiti army officers.

The government is headed by Colonel Ali Hussein Ali who holds the positions of prime minister, commander in chief of the armed forces, minister of defence and interior minister. The other eight members were lieutenant colonels and majors.

The government was announced on Baghdad Television but no pictures of the government members were shown and the men had no previous public record.

A statement by Col. Ali pledged that the provisional government would adhere to the principles in the first communique issued in the name of the "free provisional government of Kuwait."

That communique called for close cooperation between Kuwait and Iraq and settling the outstanding border issue.

Before invading and ousting the ruling royal family of the emirate Thursday, Iraq had said Kuwait was stealing oil from a field that straddled the undemarcated border between the two countries.

The other cabinet members are: Major Walid Saud Mohammad Abdullah, foreign minister.

Captain Fouad Hussein Ahmad, oil minister and acting finance minister.

Captain Fadel Haidar Al Wafiqi, information minister and acting communications minister.

Captain Mishaal Saad Al Hadab, health minister and acting housing minister.

Major Hussein Al Shemari, labour minister and acting social affairs minister.

Captain Nasser Mansour Al Mandil, education minister.

Captain Issam Abdul Majid Hassan, minister of justice and legal affairs and acting minister of Islamic affairs.

Captain Yaqoub Mohammad, minister of trade, electricity and planning.

A statement by the new cabinet said its formation had followed the establishment of stability.

"We pledge to God, the people and the nation that we will commit ourselves... to work and sacrifice in the service of the people and nation," it said.

It also said it would hold talks with Baghdad on the disputed border.

In Cairo, Kuwaiti Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Abdul Rahman Al Awadi said the Iraqi-installed group "does not include any Kuwaitis."

Egypt's Middle East News agency quoted Awadi as saying at the end of an Islamic foreign ministers meeting in Cairo: "All these names are not Kuwaiti. There isn't a single Kuwaiti who accepts to take part in this."

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U.S. demands 'unconditional' Iraqi pullout, keeps options open

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The United States demanded on Saturday Iraq's immediate withdrawal of its troops from Kuwait and said it was considering all options against Baghdad.

President George Bush discussed options and heard the latest intelligence reports for two hours with senior national security advisers at his weekend retreat at Camp David, Maryland, in the nearby Catoctin mountains.

He continued contacting world leaders seeking support for coordinated action — economic or otherwise — against Iraq.

Bush met at Camp David with Vice President Dan Quayle, Defence Secretary Dick Cheney, Secretary of State James Baker, Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Director William Webster, and senior military officials.

Fitzwater said Bush would continue to monitor the Middle East situation and would meet with Brent Scowcroft, his national security adviser, and other aides Sunday evening at the White House.

The White House Friday was sceptical of Baghdad's announcement that Iraqi troops would be withdrawn from Kuwait on a timetable beginning Sunday. The Iraqi government added, however, that the Al Sabah royal family that ruled Kuwait for almost 250 years "is finished forever and will never come back."

Bush said he planned to stay in touch by telephone with world leaders over the weekend to try

to tighten international sanctions against Iraq.

In Moscow, Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze jointly called upon all countries to cut off arms supplies to Iraq. The Soviets have been Baghdad's biggest arms supplier.

The Pentagon watched closely for signs of Iraqi moves into Saudi territory. Such a move would likely require a U.S. military response to protect Saudi Arabia and its enormous oil reserves that the world is dependent upon, many U.S. lawmakers have said.

"We continue to seek the immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait and restoration of the legitimate government of Kuwait," White House chief spokesman Martin Fitzwater said in a statement released after Bush met his advisers.

"As we have stated before, all U.S. options are under consideration," Fitzwater said.

Reports Saturday that Iraqi troops have entered a buffer zone shared by Kuwait and Saudi Arabia and were within 1.5 kilometres of the Saudi border were denied by Gulf and Saudi officials.

One Defence Department official said one or two Iraqi vehicles apparently drove into the neutral zone, possibly on a reconnaissance mission, before quickly turning around and returning to Kuwaiti soil.

But the official said the Pentagon had no indication that Iraqi

forces had moved into the so-called neutral zone.

The official acknowledged that some Iraqi forces were indeed near the Saudi border but said the United States had seen no indication that troops were massing there for a thrust into Saudi Arabia.

The White House statement made no mention of Iraqi troop movements towards Saudi Arabia but Bush warned Friday before departing Washington that if Riyadh asked for U.S. assistance, "I would be inclined to help in any way we possibly can."

Fitzwater said Bush was continuing diplomatic initiatives aimed at building united world support against Iraq.

He said 10 nations have joined the United States in freezing Kuwaiti assets in their countries

to prevent Iraq from gaining access to Kuwait's billions of dollars.

Bush spoke by telephone Friday with West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, French President Francois Mitterrand and Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and all three agreed to freeze Kuwaiti assets in their control, Fitzwater said.

Other nations that have agreed to freeze Kuwaiti assets include Britain, Italy, Canada, Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, Norway and Switzerland, he said.

He welcomed the European Community (EC) decision to freeze Iraqi assets, ban imports of Iraqi oil and halt arm sales to Iraq, steps the United States took Thursday.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

For those invited to attend laying the corner stone ceremony for

Al Amal Cancer Treatment Centre building

The General Union of Voluntary Societies and the National work team entrusted with founding the cancer centre announce the postponement of laying the foundation stone ceremony for Al Amal Cancer Treatment Centre until further notice.

Those who received our invitation cards please take this notice into consideration.

U.S. would fight Iraq over Saudi oil fields — defence experts

By Charles Aldinger
Reuter

WASHINGTON — The United States would go to war against Iraq if it moved against Saudi Arabia, despite cautious military signals sent by Washington after Iraq's take-over of Kuwait, defence experts said.

Pointing to a thinly veiled warning from President George Bush Friday, the analysts said U.S. forces would be sent to battle to ensure the free flow of Saudi oil.

They painted a scenario of U.S. air attacks launched from Turkey and aircraft carriers in the Mediterranean and northern Arabian Sea and movement into Saudi Arabia by air and sea. "I think we would bring it all to bear," said John Steinbruner, a defence expert at the Brookings Institution, a Washington think-tank. "But that takes preparation and I hope we're using every minute to get ready."

Former U.S. Defence Secretary Harold Brown said the United States could not allow Iraq to control the vast amounts of oil that would be at its disposal if it seized Saudi Arabia's oil fields.

"The United States would be severely disadvantaged if a single individual controlled Iraq, Kuwait and Saudi oil — especially this individual Iraqi President Saddam Hussein," Brown said.

"Unless the Saudis refused to cooperate with us, I'm sure we would fight," he said.

But Brown, now head of the John Hopkins Foreign Policy Institute, also warned that Washington needed to move quickly to get troops and tactical aircraft into the region if the situation did not cool down.

"They're not going to get there on a magic carpet," he warned. "It's a lot harder to push the Iraqis out of Saudi Arabia than to meet them at the door on the way in."

Jim Blackwell, a senior fellow at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies, said the United States would probably launch heavy air raids from Incir-

lik air base in Turkey and could refuel aircraft in the Gulf region using KC-135 tankers.

Pentagon officials refused to discuss contingency plans despite Bush's statement to reporters Friday that "the status of (Iraqi forces in Kuwait) is unacceptable and further expansion would be even more unacceptable."

But Bush said he had talked to Saudi Arabia's King Fahd and Turkey's President Turgut Ozal, adding: "Turkey, you know, is in a very strategic location."

Senior U.S. defence officials, who asked not to be identified, said the Pentagon joint chiefs of staff and the U.S. southern command, based in Tampa, Florida, would coordinate any movement by troops to the region.

Commanders could choose from 90,000 members of four new army light infantry divisions and two airborne divisions, each with about 15,000 men.

In addition to those, any or all of three special marine expeditionary brigades based on the U.S. East Coast could be moved by both aircraft and ship to Saudi Arabia. Each brigade (three others also in the western United States) includes 15,000 men and equipment from tanks and jet fighters to water purifiers, trucks, cranes and portable bridges.

"We can move those men anywhere in the world in 10 days," said one marine officer. "We can fly them to marry up with the ships at different points where the equipment is stored."

The experts noted that one problem was a current lack of quick transportation for large amounts of heavy equipment such as tanks to support army light infantry troops.

"If the house and Senate weren't already aware of that, this will push Congress to provide more funding for rapid-deployment aircraft and ships to meet Third World situations," Blackwell said.

"The defence budget is shrinking fast," noted Steinbruner at Brookings. "But this is a lesson: Despite the calm in Europe, the need to fight elsewhere isn't going away."

Palestinians say Iraqi move enhances cause

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories, resentful of Kuwait and cheered by Iraq's anti-Israeli threats, have praised the Iraqi take-over of Kuwait.

A prominent community leader drew cheers Friday evening from a crowd of 50 people at a Jerusalem conference on heritage when she suggested Iraq should occupy other Gulf states.

"How can we, the Palestinians, help Iraq continue its sweep south to clean the American puppets from all the sheikdoms?" asked Samiha Khalil, president of a rehabilitation centre in the West Bank town of Al Bireh.

Palestinians said the take-over could strengthen their 32-month-old uprising against Israeli occupation, backing it even though they stand to lose millions of dollars sent back from relatives working in Kuwait.

"Our stone will become more effective as a result of the invasion," a Nabulus repairman said. Stone-throwing has become a symbol of the uprising.

He said U.S. support for Israel was partly financed from taxes paid on investments in the United States by oil-rich Arab states.

Marxists, pan-Arabists, Muslim fundamentalists and Palestinians without any political allegiance all supported the Iraqi move.

A journalist in the West Bank town of Jenin said he was alone among his acquaintances in taking a neutral stand on the issue.

"Even when I argued that the invasion would steal media attention from the uprising, they argued that the takeover was worth it," said the journalist.

Some Palestinians believed the issue would pressure the United States to solve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, while others called it retribution for what they saw as Kuwaiti disdain for Palestinian workers.

Some said they resented the extravagant lifestyles of the Gulf rulers and admired Saddam for challenging the United States and Israel.

"Saddam Hussein was the first one to speak on standing up to Israel after 17 years of talk about peace which produced nothing," said Aatef Adwan, a prominent figure from the Gaza Strip.

"People have been talking about peace since the 1973 war but they had cultivated neither a fruit nor a leaf," he said.

Palestinians, many financially harmed by the revolt against Israeli rule, stand to lose an estimated \$120 million in annual remittances from relatives working in Kuwait.

It will remain hot and dry and winds will be northwesterly light to moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.

Min./max. temp.
Amman 22 / 37

U.S. beefs up its Mideast forces

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States is sending a third aircraft carrier and 15,000 sailors and marines toward the Middle East early next week to bolster its naval armada in the Gulf crisis, Pentagon officials say.

As military strategists and lawmakers debated the danger of committing U.S. combat troops to a protracted desert war against Iraq tanks, it was clear that the immediate U.S. response to Iraq's seizure of Kuwait was to focus on a show of naval strength.

Officials said 15 naval vessels led by the carrier Saratoga and including a marine amphibious assault unit will leave east coast ports Monday and Tuesday for the Mediterranean.

Pentagon spokesman Pete Williams refused to link the latest ship movements with the Gulf crisis, saying they had been planned for months. Although the Saratoga had been scheduled to relieve the USS Eisenhower, he said, the two carriers might remain together on duty in the

Mediterranean for a while. The Eisenhower was deployed in the region in March. Its marine amphibious unit has been stationed off the coast of strife-torn Liberia for several weeks.

The carrier Independence already is steaming towards waters outside the Gulf from the Indian Ocean to back up the U.S. navy's task force of eight warships already stationed inside the Gulf.

While the United States is focusing for the time being on naval manoeuvres, concerns were expressed at the Pentagon and on Capitol Hill about the implications of sending U.S. troops into battle against Iraq's 5,500 tank and million-man army.

Even though billions of dollars in U.S. arms have been sold to Saudi Arabia over the years, the Saudis' 65,000-man army is largely untested on the battlefield. Just last month, the Saudis signed an agreement to buy \$3 billion of the U.S. army's most advanced tanks, the M-1A2s, but they aren't sche-

duled for delivery until the mid-1990s.

Adm. William J. Crowe Jr., former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told NBC television the United States could "dominate the Gulf from a naval standpoint (and) we can dominate them in the air," but that landing U.S. combat troops "would be a major problem."

Military observers note that most Mideast states friendly to the United States have refused to allow U.S. bases on their territory.

The closest major ground forces available to the United States are based in Western Europe or on the island of Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean, a week to 10 days away from the Gulf region by sea.

"We were impotent 10 years ago in the hostage crisis and we're impotent now," said one military analyst, who spoke only on condition that he not be identified.

The possibility of an Iraqi thrust into Saudi Arabia worries

members of Congress. Lawmakers who attended secret briefings on the crisis said the 120,000 Iraqi troops massed along their southern border could easily attack the Saudis next.

"We have no infrastructure there to accept any kind of land forces. No way to get water, food, fuel — let alone tanks and trucks — to support a land war," he said.

Defence Secretary Dick Cheney met with Bush at the White House Friday and then reviewed Iraqi military moves and U.S. options with Colin Powell and other members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

House Speaker Thomas S. Foley said such a development would raise "the most serious security questions" for the United States and "would call for a direct military response by the United States, Western Europe, maybe even the Soviet Union."

Added Foley: "This would be an action that could not be ignored."

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'Prisoners in Kuwait, linked to hostages, are free'

NEW YORK (AP) — ABC News reported Friday that all of the 17 Shiite Muslims imprisoned for terrorism in Kuwait are now free.

Islamic Jihad, a group holding Western hostages in Lebanon, had set the release of the 17 as a condition for freeing its hostages. Two of the 17 had already been released after serving five-year terms.

In a report on ABC's World News Tonight, Anchor Peter Jennings said "ABC's Pierre Salinger reports that as of tonight they are all free."

"Does this affect the fate of the American hostages? We don't even know who freed the Kuwait prisoners," Jennings said.

The report did not elaborate. Iraqi troops entered Kuwait Thursday. They are believed to control almost all of Kuwait, and it was not clear from the ABC report whether the imprisoned Muslims were now free of any restrictions the Iraqis might impose.

Most are pro-Iranian Shi'ites from Iraq, but among those who were held are two Lebanese whose release is believed to be a principal reason for the kidnappings in Lebanon by Islamic

Jihad.

Kuwait had identified the prisoners as members of the pro-Iranian Dawa party, an Iraqi group seeking to overthrow the government of President Saddam Hussein. They were jailed for the bombings of the U.S. and French embassies in Kuwait on Dec. 12, 1983, which killed five people and wounded 86.

In Washington, John Dixon, a spokesman for the State Department task force on the Iraq-Kuwait conflict, said the department was aware of the ABC report but didn't know if the prisoners were free.

Islamic Jihad says it holds Terry Anderson, chief Middle East correspondent of the Associated Press, kidnapped March 16, 1985, and Thomas Sutherland, acting dean of agriculture at the American University of Beirut, abducted June 9 of that year. Anderson has been held the longest of all Western hostages.

Of the 15 prisoners believed held by Kuwait before the take-over, three were under sentence of death. The others were serving sentences ranging from 10 years to life in prison.

Kuwait had refused to free any of the prisoners.

'Dissidents rounded up'

Hundreds of Iraqi dissidents living in Kuwait were rounded up after the Iraqi take-over and face prison, torture or execution, Amnesty International said Friday.

The human rights monitoring organisation said it has received reports suggesting some people suspected of opposing the Baghdad regime "have already been taken back to Iraq, where they face certain imprisonment and risk torture and, in some cases, execution."

"The Iraqi government has a record of brutal ruthlessness with its opponents," Amnesty International said in a statement issued by its Washington office. "We fear for the safety and the lives of those arrested."

Those rounded up apparently include members or supporters of the Iraqi Communist Party and those linked to the banned opposition group known as Islamic call (Al Da'wa Al Islamiyya), the statement said.

Iraqi forces reportedly conducted house searches and made many arrests in Kuwait City's predominantly Shiite district of Baad Al Gar, it added.

Baghdad denies Cairo report

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq denied a report in Saturday's issue of Egypt's Al Ahram newspaper that 120 Iraqi officers had been executed for refusing to take part in the take-over of Kuwait.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) said it had been told by a responsible Iraqi source that "these fabricated lies are completely unfounded."

Al Ahram said in its front-page report that the officers were executed Friday on death warrants signed by President Saddam Hussein following a summary court martial.

It reported the officers as saying the operation against a brother Arab state made no sense and had no justification.

The paper did not say if the officers acted together or separately, and it was not clear if they were from all three branches of the armed forces.

Al Ahram gave no source for its Baghdad-dated story.

Turkey has no plans to close Iraqi pipeline

ISTANBUL (R) — Turkey has no plans to close an Iraqi oil pipeline through its territory to punish Baghdad for taking over Kuwait, senior officials said Saturday.

"Shutting the Iraqi pipeline is not being planned for the time being," a senior Foreign Ministry official told Reuters.

Official sources said the Foreign Ministry was against any measures which could endanger Turkey's neutrality in the Gulf region.

"The Foreign Ministry is against any early moves. Turkey wants to remain in the region as a trustworthy country as it was before and does not want to damage its neutrality," another Foreign Ministry official said.

Newspapers advised the government against taking measures which might upset Turkey's relations with Iraq.

Iraq can pump up to 1.5 million barrels a day through the 1,300-kilometre twin pipeline from its Kirkuk oil fields to Turkey's Mediterranean jetties — more than half of Iraq's estimated daily exports of 2.7 million barrels.

Iraq is Turkey's biggest oil supplier, selling it 11.8 million tonnes of crude in 1989 — more than 60 per cent of Turkey's total oil imports.

Turkey's state radio said U.S. President George Bush had exchanged views with President Turgut Ozal about the Iraqi invasion.

Asked if blocking Iraqi oil exports through the pipeline would be an option, Bush told reporters in Washington Friday: "I'm not going to go into details but clearly a good deal of that oil goes out through Turkey and that will be an option I'm certain."

Turkey's national security council has called on Iraq to comply with a U.N. Security Council resolution demanding immediate withdrawal from Kuwait.

"Turkey holds the key of the embargo in its hands. If we shut the pipeline, Iraq's sales of oil (through Turkey) to the world will come to an end," the mass-circulation Daily Hurriyet said Saturday.

Columnist Oktay Elksi wrote in Hurriyet: "Suggestions from our Western friends, who want to see Turkey as the guard of the oil

wells in the Middle East, to make us part of the embargoes against Iraq, will do nothing but push Turkey into the Middle East swamp."

The paper quoted a Foreign Ministry document which it said advised the cabinet that Turkey should coordinate with Saudi Arabia in any decision to close the pipeline.

Iraq pumps just under a million barrels a day through a pipeline across Saudi Arabia to the Red Sea. All other Iraqi oil goes through the Strait of Hormuz at the exit of the Gulf.

In a front-page commentary, the left-wing Cumhuriyet daily said: "One principle can be identified now. Turkey cannot be the gendarme of the Middle East and does not have to move before its Western allies do."

Iraqi message

President Ozal announced Saturday that Iraq's First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan would fly here Sunday

to deliver a message from President Saddam Hussein.

Ozal made the announcement during a visit to Murted air base near Ankara. No other details were immediately available.

Ozal told reporters Saturday that the pipeline issue did not dominate his telephone conversation with Bush. "There had been no demands from the United States for the closure of the pipeline. Such a demand is out of question," Ozal said.

"It is wrong to relate the issue (Iraqi invasion) with the closure of the pipeline," Ozal said.

"I explained (to Bush) that it was not that simple," Ozal added.

Ozal said the Iraqi military attack against Kuwait should be discussed with NATO.

Turkish officials reported that the flow of Iraqi crude oil through the pipeline to Turkey continued at its usual level.

Turkey makes 60 per cent of its crude oil imports from Iraq, which amounts to \$1.5 billion of revenue for Iraq annually.

Text of Iraqi statement announcing withdrawal

BAGHDAD (R) — Text of a statement by a spokesman for Iraq's ruling Revolutionary Command Council (RCC) as reported by the official news agency (INA) (Reuter translation from Arabic):

"The statement issued by the RCC (on Thursday) was clear in defining the reasons and circumstances which made Iraq extend help to the free provisional government of Kuwait. Our forces have performed their pan-Arab and national duty in supporting our people in Kuwait and maintaining security and stability with a high degree of faithfulness and discipline, as everyone saw, even our enemies."

"In accordance with the RCC statement yesterday on the mission of our brave forces and according to the understanding with the free provisional government of Kuwait, a plan has been laid down to start withdrawing these forces under a timetable as of Sunday, Aug. 5 unless factors appear that would threaten the security of Kuwait

or Iraq.

"We announce and emphasise to our people and our glorious Arab Nation that by doing this we are not responding to the hollow lies launched from various places by ill-meaning people to whom we give no consideration whatsoever."

"We are committed to our principles and in harmony with ourselves and the duty rendered by our brave forces in accordance with the RCC statement yesterday."

"The spokesman warned that any party whatever, great or small, of whatever sort, that might try to interfere with Kuwait and Iraq would be confronted with a decisive stand that would chop its arms off from its shoulders."

"He also affirmed that there can be no return for the extinct regime now that the sun of dignity and honour has shone over Kuwait. Present and future relations between Kuwait and Iraq will be determined only by the people of Iraq and Kuwait."

Text of EC statement on sanctions against Iraq

ROME (R) — Following is the full text of the statement issued Saturday after a meeting of European Community (EC) senior foreign ministry officials on Iraq's invasion of Kuwait (official translation):

The community and its member states reiterate their unreserved condemnation of the brutal Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and their demand for an immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi forces from the territory of Kuwait, already expressed in their statement of Aug. 2.

They consider grounds and unacceptable the reasons provided by the Iraqi government to justify the military aggression against Kuwait, and they will refrain from any act which may be considered as implicit recognition of authority imposed on Kuwait by the invaders.

In order to safeguard the interests of the legitimate government of Kuwait they have decided to take steps to protect all assets belonging directly or indirectly to the state of Kuwait.

The community and its member states confirm their full support for U.N. Security Council Resolution Number 660 and call on Iraq to comply with the provisions of that resolution.

If the Iraqi authorities fail to comply, the community and its member states will work for, support and implement a Security Council resolution to introduce mandatory and comprehensive sanctions.

As of now, they have decided to adopt the following:

— An embargo on oil imports from Kuwait and Iraq;

— Appropriate measures aimed at freezing Iraqi assets in the territory of member states;

— An embargo on sales of arms and other military equipment to Iraq;

— The suspension of technical and scientific cooperation with Iraq;

— The suspension of the application to Iraq of the system of generalised preferences.

The community and its member states reiterate their firm conviction that disputes within states should be settled by peaceful means, and are prepared to participate in any effort to defuse the tension in the area.

They are in close contact with the governments of several Arab countries and regions with the utmost attention to the discussion within the Arab League and the Gulf Cooperation Council.

They hope that Arab initiatives will contribute to the restoration of international legality and of the legitimate government of Kuwait.

The community and its member states are ready to lend their full support to such initiatives and to efforts to resolve by negotiations the differences between the states concerned.

The community and its member states are carefully monitoring the situation of EC nationals in Iraq and Kuwait; they maintain strict coordination in order to guarantee their safety.

Arens: Israel will act if Iraq moves into Jordan

TEL AVIV (AP) — Defence Minister Moshe Arens has warned that Israel will act against Iraq if it moves its forces into Jordan.

Arens said Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, however, does not obligate Israel to respond.

"We are ready, we are prepared and we are strong," he said on Israel Radio. "We have a significant deterrent capability and we

can guard our interests."

Arens said the Iraqi take-over of Kuwait "does not represent a geo-strategic change, from our point of view."

"But the moment we feel that we are facing a geo-strategic change, or such a change occurs, for instance the entrance of Iraqi army into Jordan, we will act. This has been Israeli policy for many years now."

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 773111-19	
PROGRAMME ONE	
15:30	Programme review
15:45	Children programme
17:10	Football
18:00	News summary
18:10	Local programme
18:20	Programme review
19:00	News in Arabic
20:00	Arabic series
21:30	Programme review
21:40	Local programme
23:00	News summary in Arabic
PROGRAMME TWO	
17:45	Cartoons
18:15	Documentary
19:00	News in French
19:15	French varieties
19:30	News in Hebrew
19:45	Varities programme
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Hey Dad
21:10	The Nuclear Age: "Vision of Peace"
22:00	News in English
22:30	Hunter — "Son and Heir"
PRAYER TIMES	
04:20	Fajr
05:47	(Sunrise) Dhuha
12:42	Dhuhr
16:22	'Asr
19:36	Maghreb
21:40	Isha

CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish, Tel. 810740	
Assenities of God Church, Tel. 637085	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terrence Church Tel. 622366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Armenian International Church Tel. 685326	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817 and 654932	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
It will remain hot and dry and winds will be northwesterly light to moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.	
Min./max. temp.	
Amman 22 / 37	
USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Subhi Yammou	889093
Dr. Jamil Tarif	794710
Dr. Tawfiq Qab'in	623029
Dr. Khaled Halayqa	793522
First pharmacy	623250
Al Asana pharmacy	670325
Nairothi pharmacy	623672
Al Salem pharmacy	636730
Yaacoub pharmacy	646945
Shuaitani pharmacy	637660
IBRD:	
Dr. Ma'n Barqaji	(—)
Al Shura's pharmacy	(983238)
ZARQA:	

Kuwaitis demonstrate in Amman

By Lami K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — More than 150 Kuwaitis demonstrated in front of the Kuwaiti Embassy in Amman Saturday demanding an immediate withdrawal of Iraqi troops and the reinstatement of the Sabah ruling family.

"Long live free and sovereign Kuwait under Emir Jaber Sabah," shouted Kuwaiti men in their traditional white dishdashieh and several elegantly dressed women.

Waving flags and portraits of Emir Jaber Sabah, the Kuwaitis pledged not to succumb to "the Iraqi invasion" and pledged full loyalty to Al Sabah ruling family.

Encouraged by the international condemnation of Iraq's intervention in Kuwait, women sprinkled confetti in an optimistic gesture and hope that the ruling family will be reinstated.

Senior Kuwaiti embassy officials said half of the 1,000 Kuwaiti nationals who were spending their summer vacation in Amman have already left for Saudi Arabia on their way back to their country. They said that borders be-

tween Saudi Arabia and Kuwait were open and thousands of Kuwaitis were returning to their homes.

The demonstration was confined to a side street in front of the imposing white-stone Kuwaiti Embassy. But while the Kuwaitis were heartened by international condemnation of Iraq, public opinion in Jordan and in the Israeli occupied territories strongly manifested support of Iraq.

Kuwait's Charge d'Affaires, Faisal Al Mukhaizem, dismissed such suggestion insisting that the embassy has been receiving a flow of "telephone calls, telegrams and even personal visits by Jordanians expressing solidarity with Kuwait."

At a press conference at the embassy, Mukhaizem described the Iraqi intervention as "a barbaric invasion."

Leaflets signed by the Kuwaiti students in various Arab countries were distributed at the embassy calling for Arab support for the Kuwaiti people.

The leaflets stressed that Kuwait had always supported the Arab causes, particularly the Palestinian struggle against Israeli occupation.

In interviews with the press, Jordanians and Palestinians cited Kuwaiti pro-American policies and investments in the West as major reasons for the popular resentments of the Kuwaiti deposed rulers.

Ordinary people as well as leading political figures in Jordan cited Gulf states inadequate financial aid to the "poor" Arab countries and the Palestinians while "money was squandered in pursuit of luxuries" as main reasons for popular unsympathetic attitude to the Kuwaiti royal family.

In the press conference, Mukhaizem avoided reacting to popular accusations focusing the attention on the Iraqi position and the international criticism of Baghdad.

He raised doubts about the existence of the Kuwaiti provisional government. "Where is this government?" he asked.

He dismissed reports that Ahmad Al Khatib, a leading Kuwaiti opposition leader, has accepted to join the new government. "I was told by Kuwaitis that Khatib has outright rejected such a proposition," he said. No confirmation of Khatib's position towards the Iraqi intervention was available.

'Loan-on-deposit' facility to help Kuwaiti nationals

Kuwaiti dinar dealings halted

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — With uncertainty clouding the fate of Kuwait, commercial banks in Jordan Saturday suspended buying and selling Kuwaiti dinars, one of the strongest world currencies before Iraq sent its troops across the border and seized control of the northern Gulf emirate early Thursday.

The banks' move in turn triggered all hotels to insist on payment in Jordanian dinars or American dollars from their guests, many of them Kuwaitis. But there was no immediate report of any hotel turning away any Kuwaiti nationals.

(Reports from the Gulf said dozens of Kuwaiti families were forced to seek help from the Kuwaiti embassy in Bahrain after hotels in the country, refusing to accept payment in Kuwaiti dinars, turned them away. Many Bahrainis accepted to accommodate some of the families, Akbar Al Khaleej of Bahrain reported.)

The Iraqi dinar, which rose to 210 fils Thursday from 170 fils Wednesday in the wake of the Iraqi military move into Kuwait, fell back but retained part of the gain. The Housing Bank set a buy/sell rate of 176 fils/193 fils while the Arab Bank was buying Iraqi dinars at 182.5 fils at the close of business Saturday.

Some banks were only selling Kuwaiti dinars but found few buyers of the currency, which was quoted by the Housing Bank at a selling price of JD 2.29, down from JD 2.35 on Thursday, bankers said. The Arab Bank suspended all dealings in Kuwaiti dinars as of early Thursday, a few hours after Iraqi troops took control of their Gulf neighbour.

"There is a lot of Kuwaiti dinars in the market," said Mohammad Abu Arida, head of the foreign exchange department of the Housing Bank. "Right now, we are only selling," he told the Jordan Times in a telephone interview.

Informed banking sources said the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) had very little to do with the commercial banks' move. "It is mostly dictated by the demand and supply situation in the market," said a senior official at one of the leading commercial banks. "There is a lot of Kuwaiti dinars in the parallel (black) market, and there are few buyers." The Kuwaiti dinar is not in a set of foreign currencies whose exchange rates are set by the CBJ on a daily basis.

Having a field day in the bargain were currency "dealers" in the parallel market where the Kuwaiti dinar was quoted at between JD 1.5 and JD 1.8 Saturday. "Even at this rate, we are doing them (the sellers) a favour," said a downtown "buyer."

"We might stop buying at all tomorrow," he added.

Most bankers contacted by the Jordan Times said they were waiting for the outcome of Sunday's mini Arab summit in Jeddah expected to be attended by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, Kuwaiti Emir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah and other Arab leaders who are seeking to defuse the Gulf crisis. (It remained unclear Saturday whether the summit would take place.)

"We hope things will be clear by Monday," said Arida. "The outcome of the Jeddah meeting will be evident and the international markets will also

reopen Monday" after the weekend, he noted.

In the meantime, an arrangement has been worked out between the Kuwaiti embassy and the Jordan Kuwait Bank under which visiting Kuwaitis who stand in need of urgent funds could be helped, an embassy official and the director-general of the bank said.

Under the arrangement, the Jordan Kuwait Bank will accept "deposits" in Kuwaiti dinars from Kuwaiti nationals and release "loans" with the deposits as collateral until the Gulf situation is clear and exchange rate of the Kuwaiti dinar is stabilised.

According to Sufian Sartawi, director-general of the bank, the bank will release one Jordanian dinar to every Kuwaiti dinar under "deposit." The arrangement is expected to go into effect as of Sunday morning, Sartawi told the Jordan Times.

According to an embassy official who refused to identify himself the mission was "trying its best" to help Kuwaitis stranded in Jordan. He declined to give any estimate of the number of Kuwaitis in the Kingdom. Reports have put their total number between 5,000 to 25,000. No official figure has been released. "Judging from the number of Kuwaiti-licensed vehicles on Jordan's roads prior to the take-over they should be at least more than 15,000," said a tour operator.

Jordanian expatriates working in Kuwait now spending their vacation home said some of them faced problems as some of their money was in Kuwaiti dinars in cash. "As far as we know the arrangement does not apply to non-Kuwaitis," noted Mahmoud Abu Huda, an engineer working in Kuwait who said he and some others like him planned to approach the Central Bank to clarify things. "We may not need money as urgently as our Kuwaiti friends in Amman do, but we would like to know where we stand."

"Something is better than nothing," said a Kuwaiti national leaning against the wall of his country's diplomatic mission in Jabal Amman. "It is ridiculous though. Our currency was one of the strongest in the world and it is terrible to be told that the banks won't accept it," he said pulling out a roll of banknotes from his pockets. "I hope it will last me until I leave on the first available flight home," he said, agreeing to be identified only as Hussein, an employee of the Water Authority of Kuwait.

Kuwait airport remained closed Saturday, and there was no indication when the facility would reopen to incoming and outgoing commercial flights. A Royal Jordanian plane was among the last few planes to land in Kuwait early Thursday before the airport was closed.

Many Kuwaitis have left for home overland via Saudi Arabia, and there was no reports of any Kuwaiti national being denied entry to Kuwait through the border point on the Saudi-Kuwaiti border. "But entry is limited to vehicles bearing Kuwaiti license plates and Kuwaiti passport holders," according to Hussein.

Telephone and telex lines to Kuwait remained cut-off Saturday, and the embassy official said there were "indications" that they would be restored by Sunday afternoon. He did not elaborate.



Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Saturday meets with Indonesian minister for women affairs, Mrs. Sulastika Murpratomo (Petra photo)

Indonesian minister briefed on women's voluntary work

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Saturday briefed visiting Indonesian minister responsible for women affairs on women's activities in Jordan and the ongoing efforts to increase women's involvement in socio-economic and voluntary work.

The Princess, who is chairperson of the board of trustees of the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund (QAF), spoke in detail about

QAF's projects around the Kingdom. The projects benefit mainly women in rural areas by providing them with skills to increase family income and raising the standard of their living.

The Princess said that her recent visit to Indonesia gave her a chance to learn a great deal about the Indonesian women and their activities.

The visiting minister, Mrs. Sulastika Murpratomo, said her

current visit was bound to help her learn more about programmes designed to improve the status and role of women in the Jordanian society and also to tour projects carried out by QAF in different areas.

Present at the meeting was Indonesia's Ambassador to Jordan Sumary Suryokusumo and QAF board of trustees members.

The Indonesian minister arrived here Friday on a four-day visit to Jordan.

Cabinet accepts Ajlouni's resignation

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Cabinet Saturday announced the acceptance of Dr. Nael Ajlouni's resignation as director of the National Medical Institution (NMI) only three months after his appointment to the post.

Ajlouni took over from Dr. Abdul Salam Al Majali at the beginning of May 1990 after the latter's resignation.

In its statement Saturday the Cabinet said that Dr. Mustafa Barnawi will take over as NMI acting director as of the beginning of August 1990.

Ajlouni's resignation came in the wake of a decision by the Lower House of Parliament to abolish

the 1987 law which established the NMI.

The House, acting upon recommendations from both its legal and health committees, said on July 21 that the NMI, which has been facing constant difficulties, would be cancelled.

The NMI had earlier this year come under attack from parliament deputies and the public for allegations of mismanagement and some proposed that the government draft a new legislation to substitute the NMI law.

The NMI was created to take over the responsibility of running the health services in all govern-

ment and military hospitals in the Kingdom, but according to former NMI's chiefs, the institution was functioning under very difficult conditions and the absence of essential laws to regulate its performance and activities.

A detailed study conducted by the NMI in May 1988 revealed that JD 80 million were needed annually to maintain good services and provide sufficient medical care for the Jordanian public. Lack of sufficient funds was behind the NMI's failure, according to many deputies.

No reason was given for Dr. Ajlouni's resignation, and he was not available for comment.

Control of air pollution is a national priority — Maabreh

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan is going ahead with a programme to control the quality of air and prevent pollution in Jordan in implementation of a national strategy and according to international agreements, according to the Health Ministry's Director of Primary Health Care Dr. Maabreh.

"Due attention is being given to air pollution and to keeping the atmosphere clean and pure; safeguarding the ozone layer is among the priorities for Jordan's environmental policies," Maabreh said at the opening of a six-day regional training course on air pollution attended by delegates from seven countries in the Near East region.

The meetings will be dedicated to discussing means of protecting air from pollution and controlling the types and volume of pollu-

tants and their sources.

The meeting, organised by the regional Centre for Environmental Health Activities (CEHA), will also discuss U.N. programmes for controlling pollution in the atmosphere, laws and legislation concerning pollution and other related topics.

Last March Jordan released the result of a three-year programme on monitoring air in and around Amman, revealing heavy pollution of the atmosphere especially around the city centre which is normally congested by traffic.

The results, disclosed at a three-day workshop organised by the Royal Scientific Society (RSS), said that pollution of the air around the city centre was particularly noticeable during the cold season of the year and that the atmosphere in the capital in general was saturated with dust all year round. The dust exceeds

the levels permitted by international standards.

The opening session of the meeting, which is organised in cooperation with the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Ministry of Health, was also addressed by the WHO representative and director of the Amman-based CEHA, Dr. Hussein Al Baroudi. He warned that the Mediterranean countries were polluted by poisonous materials and waste handled in the industrial and construction processes.

The meeting, Baroudi said, is aimed at stepping up cooperation among various regional countries in warding off the danger of pollution and controlling pollution sources.

Countries represented at the meeting are: Jordan, Syria, Sudan, Iran, Egypt, Tunisia and Morocco.

Marketing of rural area's produce in JCO's focus

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO) is currently encouraging the establishment of cooperative societies in the rural regions and helping them market their products in a bid to stimulate socio-economic activities of the rural communities in the Kingdom, according to JCO Director-General Jamal Bdour.

JCO is cooperating in this respect with the Ministry of Tourism, the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF), the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund (QAF), the Vocational Training Corporation

and the Tourism Investments Corporation," Bdour said in a statement Saturday.

Jordan witnessed a noticeable economic recession in the 1980s, resulting in decline of income, increase in unemployment and increase in the people's migration from rural to urban regions.

"The rural regions have therefore begun to import rather than export the food products of which they had been self-sufficient," Bdour said.

For this reason, Bdour added, JCO is striving to reactivate va-

rious economic activities in the rural areas of Jordan.

JCO is carrying out a programme to enable the rural regions to resume food production, a process which can help reduce the problem of unemployment in the Kingdom, can increase Jordan's dependence on its own resources and help attain self-sufficiency of food products," Bdour added.

"To achieve this, JCO is encouraging the creation of cooperative societies which are concerned with food production and land development," Bdour said.

UNRWA says no dismissals

AMMAN (Petra) — The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA) has said that it will not fire any of its staff working in the supplementary feeding programme.

Director of the Vienna-based personnel department Robert Hopkins said the agency won't face any major problem in

absorbing the supplementary feeding programme personnel whose posts have become redundant as a result of the recent changes approved by the agency's executive board.

"The agency has cancelled the programme and has instead introduced a new scheme under which it will be providing needy refugees with food rations.

Hopkins pointed out that some of the staff concerned will be absorbed in the dry food ration distribution programme which has recently been introduced. However, he noted, others will be employed in posts to be vacant by the end of the year.

Some 160 UNRWA staff will retire by the end of this year, Hopkins said.



The Passports and Civil Affairs Department is congested with people seeking to renew their passports or obtain temporary passes to visit the occupied Arab lands (Petra photo)

Passport department crowded this summer

AMMAN (J.T.) — The passport department in Jabal Amman is currently witnessing congestion largely due to the demand for temporary passports by would-be visitors to the occupied Arab territories and expatriates now spending their holiday here and wishing to renew their documents, according to Issa Omari, director-general of the Civil Affairs and Passports Department.

Omari said that students who have just completed their secondary education and wish to travel abroad to continue studies are also applying for passports or renewal of their old passports, thus further increasing the congestion.

"The department staff are taking extra measures like extending their office hours in order to cope with the applications," Omari said at a meeting with the staff of the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The fee for a passport is JD 20 for Jordanians and JD 2 for Palestinians issued green cards upon crossing into the Kingdom from the West Bank, indicating that they live in the occupied territories.

"The fees have not changed despite the change in the form of the passports which are smaller in size than the older type and contain 60, up from 40 pages," Omari said.

He said all citizens of 15 years of age and above are entitled to obtain separate passports and the

practice of including the wife in her husband's passport is no more applied.

In February 1988 the passports and civil affairs departments were merged into one department and since then efforts have been underway to combine each citizen's files from the previous two departments into the file for the new department; the process is tedious and long and costs nearly JD 3 million, Omari continued.

To help cut the cost of combining the two files, the department is resorting to the Public Security Department (PSD) and its computer systems to help carry out the process.

According to Omari, the process is difficult in view of the big number of files on the one hand

and the fact that the passports department alone handles up to 600 applications by citizens wishing to obtain passports on a daily basis during the summer time, up from 300 during the winter.

Referring to the right to obtain passports, Omari said that Jordanians should prove that they had been living in the Kingdom for at least four consecutive years to become entitled to passports. Foreigners should stay here for 15 consecutive years before applying for the Jordanian nationality.

Wives of Jordanians from Arab countries, he said, can apply after staying in the Kingdom for three years, while foreign women married to Jordanian can apply after living here for five years.

Sign language trainees prepared for the deaf

AMMAN (J.T.) — The National Speech and Hearing Centre is now training 11 interpreters of the deaf sign to help provide sufficient staff for the centre's operations, according to a centre spokesman.

He said that the training course had been going on for the past three months and the graduates would later be regarded as authorised interpreters for the deaf. Last year the centre initiated a

15 minute weekly service on Jordan Television to relay news and other programmes to the nearly 3,000 deaf people in Jordan.

The weekly programme has provided a good service to the hearing impaired community in Jordan through the sign language, according to the official. He said that several instructors from the United States, and other countries are helping in the training of the interpreters.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Plastic art exhibition by Raddana and Ruba Haddad at the Housing Bank Complex hall.
- ★ Open studio and workshop for artist Samia Zara displaying paintings, sculptures and hand-painted fabrics. Location: off 2nd Circle, opposite Rosenthal (9:30-1:30 and 3:30-6:30).

Correction

The Jordan Times in its Aug. 3, 1990 issue in a story entitled "Deputies, public figures cite need to share in oil wealth and mapping out the future" inadvertently attributed Deputy Salim Zu'bi's statement to Abdullah Zureikat and vice versa.

Provisional government

(Continued from page 1)

The Kuwaiti embassy in Tunis said Col. Alaa Hussein Ali is the son-in-law of President Saddam Hussein and is not Kuwaiti. A spokesman for the embassy said the officer was married to Saddam's daughter and was attached to the presidential palace in Baghdad.

The Tunis embassy said all nine officers named were Iraqis. In Damascus, Kuwait's Ambassador to Syria Ahmad Abdul Aziz Al Jassem told Reuters none of the officers named were Kuwaitis. "I have talked to our military attaché in Amman, who is a colonel, and he told me according to his records of the armed forces, the people mentioned were not members of the Kuwaiti forces."

"I challenge the Iraqis to allow those who are called members of the new cabinet to appear on television and give details of their lives, their families or their biographies," he added.

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Sunday's Economic Pulse

Jordanian economic concerns in Kuwait

By Dr. Fahed Faneh

Although the Arab World consists of 21 independent states, yet the Arab economy is so interdependent that any major alteration of the status quo in any state may have far-reaching repercussions in other states.

The Jordanian economy in particular is so open and exposed to the developments in the area, that there is no way to escape the consequences.

The impact of the economic and political developments in the Gulf states are doubly important to Jordan. The Jordanian economy rose and declined with the rise and fall

of the oil markets. Gulf states supplied the Jordanian treasury by around 40 per cent of the budget, provided markets to 45 per cent of its exports, and offered employment to more than one third of its qualified manpower.

Kuwait was always second in its contribution after Saudi Arabia on the above mentioned three counts.

The earthquake that took place in Kuwait on the early hours of last Thursday, August 2, 1990, will obviously have its impact on Jordan. At stake at the moment are \$135 million a

year to the Treasury, some 90 thousand jobs to Jordanians and Palestinians in Kuwait, and a market for \$530 million of our exports.

Of course there is no reason to believe that the new authorities holding power in Kuwait will try to hurt Jordanian interests intentionally. On the contrary, there is every reason to believe that these authorities will be more sympathetic to Jordanian needs. Nevertheless, the new circumstances give rise to major risks: Will Kuwait with its assets frozen in the West be able to support the Jordanian treasury as usual?

Will the Kuwaiti private sector continue to prosper and maintain all the jobs currently occupied by Jordanians, or would there be a massive capital flight and liquidation of private businesses which were based on government direct and indirect subsidies, and finally would the level of public and private consumption in Kuwait remain at the high level that Jordanian products, especially in the form of fruits and vegetables be still needed at the same volume. No one can give a definite and assuring answer at this point in time.

These are three economic

areas which Jordan should be concerned about. Other wider range consequences will influence Jordan. The rise of the oil price from the previous \$16 p.b. to the possible \$25 p.b., now in the making, may cost Jordan some \$220 a year, which, will put the economic adjustment programme at a grave risk. Or would Jordan be compensated for this an expected eventuality?

On the other hand the Kuwaiti dinar was dealt a devastating blow with irreparable damages under any possible case. That may reduce Jordanian liabilities to Kuwaiti banks and funds, but is that

sufficient to compensate Jordan for the depreciation of its invested capital in the Arab Funds denominated in Kuwaiti dinars, and their diminished capacity to furnish Jordan with future credit facilities?

I am not trying to say that Jordan's position towards the new situation can be calculated in dollars and cents. Political and national considerations come first are higher on the agenda, but the economic dimensions should be identified and assessed. They must be in the back of the mind of our politicians and leaders while making the unavoidable difficult decisions still ahead.

Problem's in the root

HIS Majesty King Hussein pointed clearly to the cause of Middle East problems when he said last night in his interview with ITN network that "the problem of the Arab World is a result of divisions created by outside and foreign powers and a historical legacy that we inherited." Indeed, we inherited not only chronic and dangerous divisions but with them the influence and legacy of foreign powers which are intent on perpetuating these divisions in order to keep the Arabs weak and helpless. And when Arabs, one way or the other, grapple with these problems it is the same powers that cry foul. What we in the Arab World want from others, the West, in particular, is to leave us to solve inter-Arab problems and disputes our own way. The dispute between Iraq and Kuwait has been an old and long one, as the King said. It has always been there for Arab diplomacy to tackle, and the last time it was discussed was during the Baghdad Arab summit in May. The West and the U.S. in particular have no right to set conditions or impose their will on the Arabs. The U.S. especially must understand that neither the Arabs nor any other sovereign people can look kindly at America's arrogance and its contention that it, and its ideals, are the only virtues of the world. We urge the U.S. to examine its soul and look in the mirror to see its own double standards, where in Russia it campaigns for Jewish human rights and in the Arab World it supports only those who can assure the West of cheaper oil. We Arabs are not bound to agree with anybody who puts his interests above ours and demands from us to forego our rights. If America has interest in the region's oil, and that seems to be the greater concern now that the Soviet threat has diminished, then it must understand that the people of this region have an equal, if not greater, interest in its resources. The people of this region, for hundreds of years the victims of foreign power struggle, do not want a confrontation with America or the West. They want their rights, nothing more nothing less. And these include their rights in Palestine, the rights to exploit their own resources for their own benefit, and the right for a fair deal and mutual respect with other nations.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i Arabic daily strongly criticised the United States for its attitude towards the recent developments in Gulf. Washington is now recognising the United Nations Security Council's role and calling on it to interfere to keep peace in the Gulf in harmony with the principles of the United Nations charter, said the paper. But, it said, the United States has been totally disregarding the role of the world organisation in dealing with the Arab-Israeli conflict and had deterred the U.N. Security Council from imposing peace on the region. Washington has prevented any step forward towards the achievement of a settlement in the Middle East by vetoing all council resolutions aiming to achieve that goal, and by encouraging Israel to pursue its aggression and its occupation and criminal actions in occupied Palestine, the paper continued. The United States, which is now calling on the U.N. Security Council to take action, has been adamantly opposed to the idea of a U.N.-sponsored international conference to achieve peace in the Middle East and has been backing Israel's denial of the Palestinian people's rights in their own homeland, the paper added. The paper said the United States should stay away from the region and allow the Arab League and the Arab countries to deal with the Iraqi-Kuwaiti issue to contain the dispute and end the problem peacefully.

Al Dastour daily praised Arab leaders' efforts to defuse the dispute in the Gulf, but paid tribute to King Hussein for his serious endeavours to keep the Arab solidarity intact. The coming mini Arab summit expected in Jeddah Sunday should be able to end the dispute and end inter Arab differences, said the paper. It said that King Hussein who spearheaded efforts to end the issue was behind arranging for this summit in order to display solidarity among the Arabs and to contain their differences. For the king, the coming mini summit represents one important link in a long chain of inter-Arab efforts to protect the Arab order and to enhance joint Arab action, the paper noted. Jordan, it noted, seeks to avoid all issues that might destabilise Arab solidarity at a time when the Arab Nation is faced with continued Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine. Jordan, the paper added, strives to place Arab wealth and Arab potentials at the service of the common Arab goals and objectives.

Sawt Al Shamal for its part, warned of the looming danger inherent in the American-Israeli moves in the Gulf. The paper said that the Arab countries are currently facing American pressure and are put to a test, and it is incumbent on these countries to remain alert and on their guard, adamantly refusing to internationalise the Iraqi-Kuwaiti dispute which would be detrimental to Arab national interests. Any differences among the Arab states and any subjugation to United States pressure can only open the way for foreign powers to tamper with Arab interests and Arab future, the paper warned. It said that King Hussein's efforts along with those of the Arab leaders can only aim to defuse tension and help deal with the problem within the Arab framework.

Text of U.S. draft for broad sanctions against Iraq

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Following is the text of a proposed resolution being circulated by the United States calling for sweeping economic sanctions against Iraq and Kuwait.

It is still subject to negotiation and revision.

The Security Council, Reaffirming its Resolution 660 (1990),

Deeply concerned that this resolution has not been implemented and that the aggression by Iraq against Kuwait continues with further loss of human life and material destruction, Determined to bring the invasion and occupation of Kuwait by Iraq to an end, Noting that Kuwait has expressed its readiness to comply with resolution 660 (1990), Mindful of its responsibilities under the charter for the maintenance of international peace and security, Resolved to preserve the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Kuwait, Affirms the inherent right under Article 51 of the charter of individual or collective self-defence in response to the armed attack by Iraq against Kuwait.

Acting under Chapter VII of the charter of the United Nations,

1. Determines that Iraq has failed to comply with resolution 660 (1990),

2. Decides that, in furtherance of the objective of ending the aggression against Kuwait, all states shall prevent:

A. The import into their territories of all commodities and products originating in Iraq or Kuwait exported therefrom after the date of this resolution;

B. Any activities by their nationals or in their territories which would promote or are calculated to promote the ex-

port or transshipment of any commodities or products from Iraq or Kuwait; and any dealings by their nationals or in their territories in any commodities or products originating in Iraq or Kuwait and exported therefrom after the date of this resolution, including in particular any transfer of funds to Iraq or Kuwait for the purpose of such activities or dealings;

C. The sale or supply by their nationals or from their territories of any commodities or products, including weapons or any other military equipment (whether or not originating in their territories but not including supplies intended strictly for medical purposes, and, in special humanitarian circumstances, foodstuffs) to any person or body in Iraq or Kuwait or to any person or body for the purposes of any business carried on in or operated from Iraq or Kuwait, and any activities by their nationals or in their territories which promote or are calculated to promote such sale, or supply or use of such commodities or products;

3. Decides that all states shall not make available to the government of Iraq or to any commercial, industrial or public utility undertaking in Iraq or Kuwait, any funds for investment or any other financial or economic resources and shall prevent their nationals and any persons within their territories from making available to that government or to any such undertaking any such funds or resources and from remitting any other funds to persons or bodies within Iraq or occupied Kuwait, except payments exclusively for strictly medical or humanitarian purposes and in special humanitarian circumstances, foodstuffs;

4. Calls upon all states, in-

cluding states non-members of the United Nations, to act strictly in accordance with the provisions of this resolution notwithstanding any contract entered into or licence granted before the date of this

5. Decides to establish, in accordance with rule 28 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, a committee of the Security Council consisting of all the members of the council, to undertake the following tasks and to report on its work to the council with its observations and recommendations:

A. To examine the reports on the progress of the implementation of this resolution which will be submitted by the secretary general;

B. To seek from all states further information regarding the action taken by them concerning the effective implementation of the provisions laid down in this resolution;

6. Calls upon all states to cooperate fully with the committee in the fulfilment of its task, including supplying such information as may be sought by the committee in pursuance of this resolution;

7. Requests the secretary general to provide all necessary assistance to the committee and to make the necessary arrangements in the secretariat for the purpose;

8. Decides that notwithstanding paragraph 4 through 8, nothing in this resolution shall prohibit assistance to the legitimate government of Kuwait;

9. Requests the secretary general to report to the council on the progress of the implementation of this resolution, the first report to be submitted within 30 days;

10. Decides to keep this item on its agenda and to continue its efforts to put an early end to the invasion by Iraq.

By Patrick Worsnip
Reuters

LONDON — Friday's U.S.-Soviet statement on Iraq's invasion of Kuwait provides the first major test of whether the end of the cold war has made superpower cooperation in the Middle East a real force for peace.

Several past efforts by Moscow and Washington either led nowhere or were tactical behind-the-scenes understandings that, at best, stopped Middle Eastern wars becoming global conflicts.

Now, Western and Arab analysts say, the situation has changed. With the crumbling of ideological barriers in Europe, the Middle East is no longer a zone for superpower rivalry.

Western diplomats said it was still hard to imagine Friday's statement by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker leading to a joint military move to force the Iraqis to go home.

An unprecedented appeal issued in Moscow by the Soviet Union and the United States urged the world to halt arms deliveries to Iraq but a Soviet spokesman ruled out any joint military action.

Washington told its NATO allies earlier that it might use military force if Iraq attacked other countries.

"Today, the governments of the Soviet Union and the United States are taking the unusual step of directly calling on the international community to join us in suspending all arms deliveries to Iraq," the joint statement said.

Experts said superpower collaboration in the United Nations Security Council, where they hold veto along with China, Britain and France, could help the world body to play a vital enforcing role through strengthened peacekeeping powers.

The Security Council, which

U.S.-Soviet statement first test of superpower ties in Middle East

has already demanded that Iraq withdraw, is expected to meet again early next week to consider further moves. Its five permanent members were reported on Friday to be discussing possible sanctions against Iraq.

A forerunner of the increased effectiveness of the Security Council came in 1987, when its permanent members managed to agree on a strongly-worded resolution demanding an end to the Iran-Iraq war, then seven years old. It took a further year, but both sides eventually accepted the resolution and the war ended.

Previous attempts at U.S.-Soviet cooperation yielded little. In 1977, Moscow and Washington issued a joint statement calling for Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab territories, ensuring the Palestinian people's rights, and resumption of the Geneva Middle East peace conference.

The statement angered Israel, which pushed Washington to backtrack. The whole initiative soon fell by the wayside after Egyptian President Anwar Sadat launched his own bid for peace with Israel by visiting Jerusalem.

Earlier still, in 1956, both superpowers opposed the Anglo-French seizure of the Suez Canal, but the United States rejected a Soviet proposal for joint intervention.

In the past, serious cooperation between the two countries was hampered by fundamental suspicion of each other's motives and in particular by U.S. attempts to

stop Moscow strengthening its foothold in the region.

As recently as three years ago, the U.S. state department justified its move to protect Kuwaiti oil tankers in the Gulf by saying that otherwise the Soviet Union would have been able to increase its presence there.

Old-style doomday scenarios, where Moscow seized control of the Gulf and choked the West's oil supplies, are increasingly being abandoned as Moscow makes clear it is as concerned as anyone to keep oil flowing.

The official TASS news agency on Friday attacked Iraq for causing oil price rises "which in their turn threaten countries which import this strategic raw material from the Gulf region with serious economic consequences."

The change of mood has been brought about by Soviet Leader Gorbachev's "new thinking" in foreign policy, which makes clear that Moscow will no longer unreservedly support Third-World countries merely because they are left-wing.

In the past two years the dropping of Soviet insistence on all-out victory for its clients in Third World conflicts has enabled the superpowers to help resolve such problems as the Angola and Namibia disputes.

The Middle East, whose combatants are less dependent on superpower support, has resisted any quick fix.

But the shift of Kremlin policy has told on such traditional Soviet allies as Syria which, Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens has said, "can no longer embark on military escapades against Israel and enjoy Soviet support."

Some Arab commentators argue that this made a settlement less likely by making Israel less inclined to compromise.

The two superpowers are now routinely mentioned as participants in any Middle East peace conference. Many commentators believe they must be guarantors of any settlement.

Text of U.S.-Soviet statement

MOSCOW (R) — Following is the full text of Friday's joint statement by the Soviet Union and the United States on the Iraqi take-over of Kuwait. The English language version was read by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker at a news conference with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

"The Soviet Union and the United States, as members of the United Nations Security Council, consider it important that the council promptly and decisively condemn the brutal and illegal invasion of Kuwait by Iraqi military forces. The United States and the Soviet Union believe that now it is essential that the Security Council resolution be fully and immediately implemented.

"By its actions, Iraq has shown its contempt for the most fundamental principles of the United Nations Charter and international law. In response to this blatant transgression of the basic norms of civilised conduct, the United States and the Soviet Union have each taken a number of actions, including the Soviet suspension of arms deliveries and the American freezing of

assets. The Soviet Union and the United States reiterate our call for an unconditional Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait.

Sovereignty, national independence, legitimate authority and territorial integrity of the State of Kuwait must be completely restored and safeguarded. The United States and the Soviet Union believe that the international community must not only condemn this action but also take practical steps in response to it. "Today we take the unusual step of jointly calling upon the rest of the international community to join with us in an international cut-off of all arms supplies to Iraq. In addition, the Soviet Union and the United States call on regional organisations, especially the League of Arab States, all Arab governments, as well as the Non-Aligned Movement and the Islamic Conference to take all possible steps to ensure that the United Nations Security Council resolution is implemented.

"Governments that engage in blatant aggression must know that the international community cannot and will not acquiesce in nor facilitate aggression."



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Iraq rejects Arab criticism

CAIRO (R) — Iraq has rejected Arab League condemnation of its take-over of Kuwait and indicated that a summit planned in Saudi Arabia will be unable to resolve the crisis.

After two days of debate in Cairo on the invasion, a majority of league foreign ministers denounced "Iraqi aggression" and demanded immediate withdrawal of the troops.

Iraq and six others in the 21-member league did not endorse the statement, which followed separate condemnations of Baghdad by Egypt and the six-state Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

A Saudi Arabian official said earlier on Friday Iraqi President Saddam Hussein would attend a summit in the Saudi port of Jeddah Sunday to discuss the crisis.

Other leaders expected were King Hussein, Saudi King Fahd, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and possibly the emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah.

But later developments cast doubt on whether President Hussein would go to Jeddah.

The Iraqi delegate to the Cairo

Arab League meeting, Deputy Prime Minister Saadoun Hammadi, said: "This position has torpedoed the efforts of Arab leaders to handle the situation... (it) serves only the Zionist-American violence against Iraq."

Hammadi rejected the league criticism as "legally void and harmful to the higher pan-Arab interest."

He told the Iraqi News Agency that the league vote was "a grave precedent which will harm the Arab League and its credibility."

"The Arab masses will condemn and denounce the positions of those who agreed to be tools of the feverish campaign led by Washington to enforce hegemony on the Gulf and the Arab World," the Iraqi minister said.

The emir's minister said in Cairo that Sheikh Jaber would never sit at the same table with President Hussein while his troops occupied Kuwait.

"We are not ready to talk to a man who occupies our land. He has to withdraw first," said Abdul Rahman Al Awadi, minister of state for cabinet affairs in the government which fled Kuwait ahead of the invaders.

Awadi was unimpressed by an Iraqi announcement Friday night that it would start withdrawing its troops on Sunday, with the proviso that the emir and his government would not be allowed back.

The league called for an emergency summit to discuss the invasion. "The Arab League... decided to condemn the Iraqi aggression against the State of Kuwait and reject any situation resulting from it," it said in a statement.

Jordan was among the members which refused to ascribe to the resolution. Others were Mauritania, Yemen, Sudan, Djibouti and the Palestine Liberation Organisation. Libya's delegate walked out before the vote.

Mubarak's Foreign Ministry expressed surprise and regret at the invasion, saying it had plunged the region into danger, and demanded that Iraq stop interfering in Kuwait's affairs.

Saudi Arabia made no individual criticism but joined with Kuwait and the other four members of the six-state GCC in demanding the immediate withdrawal of Iraqi troops.



As the superpowers take faltering steps towards an Afghan settlement refugees from the embattled country wait in neighbouring Pakistan.

No superpower deal yet on Afghanistan

By Oliver Wates
Reuters

IRKUTSK, Soviet Union — Two days of high level Soviet-U.S. talks in Siberia ended Thursday with the announcement that Moscow was halting production of rail-mounted nuclear missiles, but with no breakthrough on Afghanistan.

Secretary of State James Baker told reporters he welcomed the Soviet missile decision but said it would not immediately change the U.S. position in negotiations for a strategic arms treaty.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze said the talks, in the central Siberian city of Irkutsk, had been fruitful, citing in particular progress on Asian conflicts such as Afghanistan and Cambodia.

"This is the first time we have comprehensively discussed problems of Asia and the Pacific, stability, peace and security in the region," he said.

"In Asia too, the Soviet Union and the United States do not see each other as adversaries," he added. "I see no reason our efforts to cooperate should be any less successful than they have been in Europe. The potential for cooperation is there."

News of Iraq's military strike against Kuwait came as the talks were ending. It was not clear whether there had been any chance to study it in detail, but Baker said he had asked Shevardnadze to halt Soviet arms supplies to Baghdad.

The two men established a framework for a series of bilateral and multilateral meetings over a coming month.

leading up to the next summit between presidents Mikhail Gorbachev and George Bush. But they gave no date for this.

The Soviet Union is clearly pressing for an interim summit to be held before the end of the year, while Washington has indicated it sees no need for a full-scale presidential party before the middle of 1991 when Bush is due to travel to Moscow.

The Kremlin's preoccupation with securing Western investment for its radical economic modernisation programme also came to the fore at the Irkutsk talks.

Shevardnadze said Gorbachev and U.S. Commerce Secretary Robert Mosbacher would attend a "broad forum" in Moscow for leading American businessmen. He also asked Baker to attend a Soviet-U.S. trade commission meeting in Moscow in September.

Shevardnadze said production of Soviet intercontinental nuclear missiles mounted on trains would stop from Jan. 1. "This process (of production) is basically completed, though we will not be deploying many more missiles," he added.

Baker's welcome was guarded. "The Soviet Union has rail-mobile missiles deployed, but the United States has no (rail) mobile missiles deployed," he said. "It doesn't, at this point at least, change our negotiating position."

Gorbachev and Bush signed an outline strategic arms treaty (START) at their June summit in Washington and committed themselves to scaling it by the end 1990. It will cut the superpower arsenals of long-range nuclear weapons by 85 per cent.

Afghanistan's bloody 12-year-old war had been expected to feature strongly in the two-day meeting. One American television network said last week Washington and Moscow had already agreed a peace plan.

But Shevardnadze and Baker made clear that while both favoured elections they did not yet agree on who should run the country during the electoral process.

Washington, which supports and arms rebels based in Pakistan, says it is impossible to win the rebels' confidence in elections unless President Najibullah steps down first.

Soviet ally Najibullah, who last Sunday flew to the Soviet Union — officially for medical treatment — has declined to stand down.

Baker said Soviet and U.S. experts are to meet soon in Washington to continue the search for an Afghan formula. "We are working hard on it and will continue to work on it," Baker said.

"We both recognise the role of the United Nations and some form of monitoring of the elections," Shevardnadze said.

Baker said the two superpowers had been successful in applying the principle of elections to regional problems in Nicaragua and Namibia; and hoped to apply it to Afghanistan, Cambodia and Angola also.

"Now, together, we embrace the principle of free and fair elections and maybe there will be more opportunities for us to work towards solving some of these regional conflicts," he said.

Riyadh takes no action over Kuwait take-over

NICOSIA (AP) — Saudi Arabia has reacted in subdued fashion to Iraq's take-over of Kuwait.

The only direct Saudi statement since the take-over was made by an anonymous government spokesman through the official Saudi Press Agency the day after the Iraqi move. It did not condemn Thursday's invasion.

It said gently that Saudi Arabia was following the Kuwait situation "with extreme concern" and that King Fahd would be seeking to calm the situation and seek a solution "in a manner ensuring the interests of all."

The only tangible help Saudi Arabia gave the Kuwaiti government was to shelter members of the ruling family, including the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, and his crown prince.

The Saudis also allowed them briefly to operate a radio reportedly from a mobile van in the area around the Saudi-Kuwait border. It broadcast calls for resistance to the Iraqis.

But Friday the radio went off the air after a desperate call: "The people of Kuwait appeal to you oh brethren, oh Arabs, oh beloved brothers, oh Muslims, rush, rush to their help?"

It was not known if the radio had been discovered by the Iraqis or shut down by the Saudis seeking not to provoke Iraqi President Saddam Hussein at a time when alleged fears were being expressed in the West that he might invade Saudi Arabia as well.

Oil executives said Saudi Arabia has not and will not take the most potent action possible against Iraq — closing the pipeline that carries Iraqi oil for export across Saudi Arabia to the Red Sea.

The Saudis did condemn the invasion in a joint statement issued by the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in which it is allied for economic and security cooperation with Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Oman and Bahrain.

The statement said, "We strongly condemn and are very sorry for this attack that one Arab state took against another Arab state. ... We do not recognise anything resulting from it."

Iraq's huge armed forces are clearly too much for the 3,000-man GCC joint military force called "Peninsula Shield" based at Hafir Al Baten in northeast Saudi Arabia 100 kilometres south of Kuwait. There was no talk of any concrete joint action against Iraq by Kuwait's partners.

Saudi Arabia was also one of the 14 members of the 21-member Arab League that condemned the invasion in the same terms as the GCC.

The Arab League, with one-third of its members voting against the resolution or abstaining, clearly was unable to take any but verbal action against Iraq.

Iraqis free 3 American oilworkers, others 'safe'

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Iraq has released three American oilworkers who disappeared in Kuwait and another eight Americans who went missing in the Iraqi invasion are also believed to be free and safe in Baghdad, U.S. officials said Saturday.

"Three people have been released," said State Department spokeswoman Judy Baroody, but gave no further details.

Other officials who did not want to be named said U.S. embassy officials in Iraq met Saturday with the three missing Americans, part of a group of Westerners who were brought to Baghdad from Kuwait by Iraqi officials.

"They appeared to be okay. To our knowledge there are no restrictions on their movements," a State Department official said. "We have information there may be as many as eight additional Americans in the hotel also."

said another official, noting the number of American oilworkers who went missing could total 11, not 14 as believed earlier.

"They were reportedly brought to Baghdad earlier today. Our embassy officials made contact with them in a hotel in Baghdad," he added.

"They seem to be in good shape," he said. "They were in the custody of Iraqis but what the circumstances were that led to them being brought there I'm just not sure."

The oilworkers disappeared after Iraqi troops and tanks rolled into Kuwait before dawn Thursday, capturing the capital, overrunning a weak defending army and seizing control of Kuwait's valuable oilfields. Eyewitnesses reportedly said they were taken away in cars and buses by Iraqi troops.

All are oilworkers from three different companies with opera-

tions near the Iraq-Kuwait border.

"The whole number may be revised. We're in the process now of seeing whether there are any unaccounted-for Americans," said one official.

U.S. officials were checking into news reports from the Gulf that Iraqi troops seized a crew of 20 Americans from an oil tanker owned by the U.S. firm Crowley Maritime, docked at a Kuwait port.

The United States has two aircraft carriers in the Gulf region and is sending another aircraft carrier and a battleship to the area next week.

Defence experts say these carry enough air power to launch punitive strikes against Iraq but that a general mobilisation of U.S. troops, tanks and hardware to the region would take weeks.

Gulf sources said the fate of the 20 Americans from the tanker was not known. The original name given by the sources for the ship — Sea Wolf — turned out to be erroneous. The sources were checking to determine the correct name and ownership.

The ship was docked at Shuaiba port, the main port of Kuwait city, said the sources, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Thatcher cuts short U.S. visit; British advisers released

ASPEN, Colorado (Agencies) — Aides to British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said Saturday she was cutting short her U.S. visit to deal with the Gulf crisis and that 35 British servicemen seized by Iraqi troops were still in Kuwait but were unharmed.

The officials with Thatcher said the servicemen had apparently returned to their camp and there was no evidence they were in any danger.

The 35 British liaison officers were in Kuwait to advise the Kuwaiti army.

The British officials were rounded up by Iraqi troops and taken to an unspecified location for questioning and then returned to their camp unharmed, the Thatcher officials said.

The aides would not elaborate on what the officers were doing and had no details of whether the Iraqis were forcing them to remain at the camp in Kuwait City.

Thatcher, who has been in Colorado visiting defence establishments, will cut her visit short by at least two days because of the Gulf crisis, officials said.

But she will not leave before delivering a major policy speech Sunday morning to the Aspen Institute, calling for continued high defence spending.

She was to stay through Tuesday but the officials said: "Once the business here has been dis-

charged, there's no further reason to hang about."

Thatcher, who spoke with U.S. President George Bush Friday and with French President Francois Mitterrand early Saturday, decided her speech was important enough to remain in Aspen at least through noon on Sunday.

She has refused interviews and ignored shouted questions from reporters about Britain's plans against Iraq, but her aides said preparation for an "economic blockade" was clearly under way.

Britain was moving two more royal navy frigates closer to the Gulf.

The two frigates, both carrying guided missiles, were in addition to the frigate HMS York already in the Gulf and were being sent to the area for support of any potential military action, officials said.

When asked if such a blockade would include naval interdiction, a Thatcher spokesman said: "That depends on how it is decided a blockade should be implemented."

He would not answer whether specific military plans were being made.

The aide refused to say where the ships are currently stationed or what they were being ordered to do, but said he thought they were the only British forces near Kuwait at present.

Iran, Britain to restore ties

(Continued from page 7)

the 16 Westerners missing in Lebanon.

The resumption of ties could be a major blow for Rafsanjani's hardline opponents, headed by former interior minister, Ali Akbar Mohtashami. They consider confronting the West a cornerstone of the 1979 Islamic revolution.

For Rafsanjani, who has been moving to circumvent his opponents and restore ties with the West in order to attract foreign investment and technology for Iran's sluggish economy, the move is a formidable victory.

Rafsanjani's book caused an uproar in February last year when Khomeini called for the Indian-born British writer's head for insulting Islam in his novel.

Tehran severed ties with Britain after London objected to the call and supported Rushdie on grounds he was exercising his freedom of speech.

Hard's remarks, and Tehran's subsequent move to restore ties, is part of behind-the-scenes dealings between Iranian and British officials, reliable sources say.

A source said that Iranian and British officials had met "more than once at a Mediterranean capital" he declined to name.

The sources spoke on condition they not be identified further.

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New, moderate left in L. America

By Ken Silverstein
The Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil — Moderate socialists are taking over from Latin America's doctrinaire communists who were loyal to Moscow.

Reform leftists say old models of socialism, based on such principles as one-party rule and state control of the entire economy, have become obsolete.

"That has created a tremendous shock for those of us who considered the past Soviet model to be a basic reference," said Luis Maira, a leading Chilean intellectual and member of a Christian Marxist group.

Leftist guerrilla movements, common in the region 20 years ago, have all but disappeared. Only Peru, El Salvador and Guatemala have significant insurgent groups, and U.S. fears of Cuban-inspired revolutions have gone the way of the cold war.

"The left is a thing of the past," said Guerino Andreoni, an Argentine Labour Leader. "Ideologically, it expresses a feeling we all share, but structurally it has remained stagnant."

Parties in the old Soviet style

got no more than 7 per cent of the vote, and usually far less, in elections held over the last few years in Argentina, Venezuela, Colombia, Peru, Paraguay, Ecuador, Brazil, Chile, Mexico and Bolivia.

Left-of-centre parties are spring up to carry the banner of the new, moderate socialism.

"The Socialist models in Eastern Europe fell because they were centralised, bureaucratic and authoritarian," said Roger Capella Mateo, treasurer of Causa R., a Venezuelan party founded in 1983. It won three seats in the National Congress last year.

"Our party anticipated perestroika by creating a grassroots socialist model from the bottom up and not the other way around," he said, referring to the reform programme of Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev.

In Colombia, former guerrilla leader Antonio Navarro finished third in this year's presidential election. He described his M-19 party, named for his former guerrilla group, as nationalist and committed to "democratic capitalism."

Leftist parties received 23 per cent of the vote in the 1989

Chilean congressional elections. That was a decline from 40 per cent in the 1970 election, the last free vote before the 1973 coup that overthrew President Salvador Allende, a Marxist.

Chile's Socialist Party, which got most of the left's vote last year, espouses moderate views similar to the social democrats of Western Europe.

Only Nicaragua, Brazil, Mexico and Uruguay have strong leftist political movements.

Nicaragua's Sandinista movement was voted out of office in February after more than 10 years in power, but is a strong force in opposition to the government of President Violeta Barrios De Chamorro.

In Brazil, Luis Inacio Lula Da Silva of the Workers Party coalition of trade unionists, members of the progressive wing of the Roman Catholic church and intellectuals, fell just short of defeating conservative Fernando Collor DE Mello in the December presidential election.

A Mexican "new left" was born during the 1988 presidential campaign when leftist parties formed an unprecedented alliance to back Cuauhtemoc

Cardenas, who ran a strong second to Carlos Salinas De Gortari, candidate of the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party.

Socialist and other leftist parties in Uruguay, allied in the broad front, won 21 per cent of the vote in elections last year. Luis Alberto Lacalle, a conservative, won the presidency, but broad front candidate Tabare Vazquez became mayor of Montevideo, the capital.

Many traditional communist parties have suffered major defections in the past year.

"The Communist Party will no doubt continue to exist, but will have no future to speak of, since it continues to suppress ideas," said Angelino Carzon, head of a major Colombian labour union. He quit the party in April.

In several other countries, liberal communists inspired by Gorbachev have either taken control of the parties or are trying to do so.

Sen. Jaime Perez, leader of the Uruguayan communists, said the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe took his party by surprise.

"We believed those regimes were consolidated, but reality has shown the parties were isolated

from the people," he said.

Latin America's new leftist remain convinced capitalism is largely responsible for the region's inequities and put much of the blame on the United States.

They see U.S. President George Bush's recent call for increased economic integration in the hemisphere as an attempt to dominate Latin economies.

Socialists speak of a major redistribution of wealth, agrarian reform and stopping payments on the region's \$400-billion foreign debt, but offer few specific plans.

"The position of the left based on its traditional discourse... has been completely weakened; unfortunately, the left has not come up with an alternative discourse," said Herbert Mueller, a Bolivian political consultant.

Leftist reformers have expressed a commitment to Western-style elections, which old-guard communists scored as "bourgeois democracy."

"We have to denounce the crimes of Eastern Europe, the crimes of the Gulag and the lack of liberty," said Rep. Jose Genoino, a former guerrilla who fought Brazil's military governments of 1964-1985.

Prominent socialists have even

urged Fidel Castro to hold direct elections in Cuba.

While leftists still seek a substantial role for the state, many say they also favour a role for private enterprise.

"Contemporary socialism doesn't sanctify the state or the market and looks for an equilibrium," said Sen. Enrique Bernales of the Socialist Left, a reformist Peruvian party. "These days, we can't reject the similarities with social democracy."

Some leftists have shown an openness to foreign investment, which previously was considered a threat to national sovereignty. In the Brazilian presidential campaign last year, Da Silva said foreign companies offered better conditions to workers than Brazilian companies.

"Foreign capital has to come to Brazil," he said. "The only restriction we make is there has to be greater control."

Even hard-liners recognise the need for change. "Socialism has lost a battle because it underestimated the importance of democracy," said Patricia Echegaray, head of the Argentine Communist Party, which followed the Moscow line faithfully.

'Untouchables' — still at a distance in India

By Vijay Joshi
The Associated Press

NEW DELHI, India — Mohan Lal fled his village 13 years ago to escape the insults that were part of life as an "untouchable" — a Hindu without a caste.

When he returned home last month, Lal found that his family and other casteless people, or Harijans, still were pariahs in their village in Rajasthan state.

"We are treated worse than dogs," said Lal, 28, now a construction supervisor in New Delhi.

In the anonymity of a big city, Harijans can hide their background without anyone bothering them. Those who prosper can shed the stigma, as Lal is trying to do.

But in rural areas, untouchables live separately in Harijan Bastis (colonies) and have no opportunities to break out of the tradition.

Mohandas K. Gandhi gave untouchables the Hindi name Harijans, or "children of God," in hopes it would provide them some respectability.

Untouchability was declared illegal after India gained independence from Britain in 1947, but the ancient tradition continues unchecked.

Even now, caste Hindus do not allow "outcasts" to wear shoes or new clothes, ride bicycles, use umbrellas, drink from the main village well or hold their heads up while walking in the street.

Kailash Satyarthi, a social activist, said that "Harijans are beaten up for this, their women raped and men sometimes killed."

Caste Hindus even believe they are defiled if they touch a Harijan and that water becomes polluted if an untouchable walks past the well.

Dozens of other rules ostracize the 100 million people in this nation of 880 million who do not belong to any of the four Hindu castes: Brahmins, or priests; Kshatriyas, or soldiers, governors and landowners; Vaishyas, or tradespeople and farmers; and Shudras, or craftspeople and menial workers. Each caste has many subdivisions.

Such beliefs took root about 2,500 years ago and remain widespread in Indian villages, where 75 per cent of the people live, according to sociologists.

Oppression of the Harijans is compounded by poverty and illiteracy. Most are agricultural labourers who are lucky to earn enough for two meals a day.

"There is a lack of awareness and coordination among the Harijans," said T.K. Oommen, a sociologist. "There is no mass consciousness. Harijans are a group by itself, but they are not a group for itself."

Sociologists and social activists say the subjugation of Harijans is perpetuated by politicians because the untouchables provide useful "vote banks" during elections.

Politicians rarely talk about the problems of untouchables. Welfare Minister Ram Vilas Paswan, himself a Harijan, acknowledged in parliament in May that he did not know how many Harijans victimised by violence had been aided by the government.

Paswan said authorities had been "asked to take appropriate action both to punish the perpetrators or crimes and to provide appropriate relief and rehabilitation to the victims."

No minister or welfare official has made a public statement about the lack of progress in solving the problem of untouchability, but many say privately it is endemic, and too big to be solved by the government.

The government says there were 14,269 crimes and other acts committed against Harijans in 1989, including 759 rapes and 479 murders.

A Harijan labourer named Dhanraj was burned to death April 5, allegedly by his upper caste village landlord. The case was publicized because Dhanraj was a resident of Prime Minister V.P. Singh's constituency of Fatehpur in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh.

Members of the opposition congress party raised the issue in parliament and brought the victim's widow to New Delhi. Kamshi Ram, president of the majority people's party, accused the prime minister of "trying to protect the killers."

Ram, born into the Sikh religion, said the crime in Fatehpur was not unusual. His party is the only one in India that speaks for the Harijans, who lack a political action group of their own.

Social activists say Indian politicians use of the lack of leadership to perpetuate divisiveness among those of no caste. "The Harijans are splintered across political parties and each group is something like a politician's personal borough," Oommen said.

Politicians guard the status quo because economic and educational progress would "open the eyes of the Harijans," said Satyarthi, the social activist.

King: 'Premature' Arab censure scuttled summit

(Continued from page 1)

with anyone except my conscience and that of the Arab Nation."

Asked whether Arab efforts would be able to contain the conflict without the help of international intervention the King said: "We live in this area and have to organise its future for generations to come."

"Please give us a chance to

solve our own problems," the King said.

He added that any attempts from the outside are "premature and would complicate matters rather than solve them."

He was directly referring to Saturday's European Economic Community's decision to adopt sanctions against Iraq.

He pointed out that many of the region's problems originally stemmed from historical foreign intervention into the affairs of the Arab Nation. "These (inter-Arab conflicts) are a legacy that we inherited."

"Our problems are a result of divisions created by outside powers," he said.

He described as "distorted" reports of Iraqi military build-

up on the Kuwaiti-Saudi border and pointed out that Iraq has denied that its troops had entered the Kuwaiti-Saudi "neutral zone." Gulf and American officials have denied the reports as well.

In answer to a question on whether he believed Iraq would continue to expand its power in the region by using

military force, the King said "I believe that this is unwarranted speculation."

The King added that he did not see "what good will come out of such accusations."

Asked if he had discussed the question of eight American servicemen reported missing in Kuwait with the Iraqi leader in Baghdad on Friday, the King said he did not, but that he

discussed the safety of foreigners in Kuwait. "He (the Iraqi president) was as concerned as I was about their safety," he said.

He described President Hussein as an "Arab patriot" who believes in the future and ideals of the Arab World and bases his policies on mutual respect and interests of Arab countries.

U.S. demands withdrawal, keeps 'all options' open

(Continued from page 1)

France would consider supporting a naval blockade of Iraq or disruption of its oil pipelines if economic sanctions are ineffective. Foreign Minister Roland Dumas said Saturday.

Dumas briefed reporters after an emergency meeting with President Mitterrand and other government leaders to discuss Iraq's take-over of Kuwait.

The possibility of "proceeding to a blockade" would be considered if economic measures, including the boycott of Iraq oil imposed by the EC Saturday, were insufficient to bring about the reinstatement of Kuwait's government, Dumas said.

He said imposition of a blockade was "hypothetical" for the time being.

Mitterrand interrupted his vacation in southern France to preside over the meeting.

Baghdad Radio broadcast a communique from the "provisional government of free Kuwait" announcing the creation of a "popular army."

"In addition to our dear

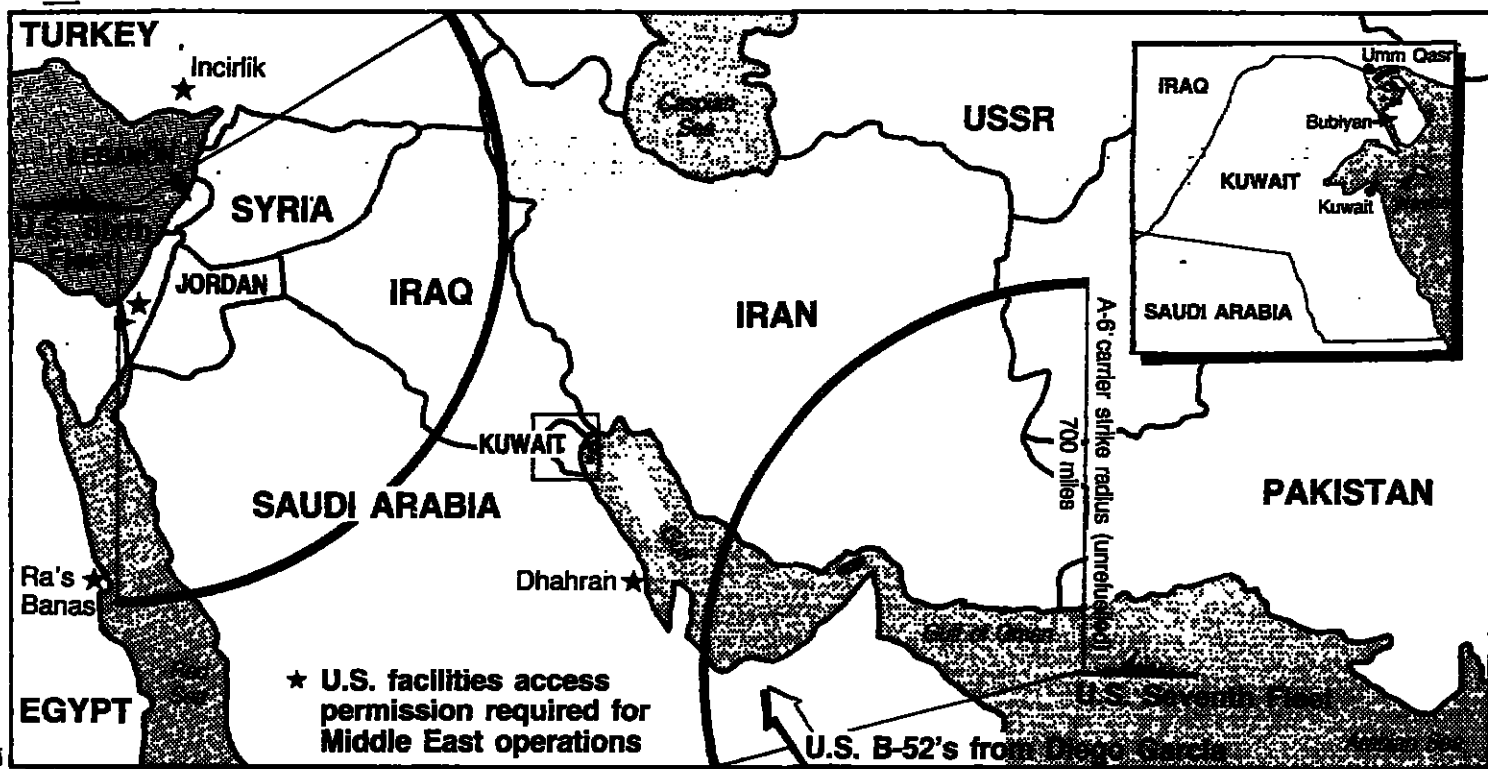
Kuwaiti army we have decided to establish a popular army," the communique said, adding: "It will accept as its members, beside Kuwaiti nationals, all other (Arab) nationals who wish stability for Kuwait in its new age."

Iraqi Television said in the wake of the announcement, more than 100,000 Iraqis volunteered to serve in the new army, corresponding to the size of the initial force.

The Revolutionary Command Council said in an official statement that Iraq would pull out its troops Sunday. It said Iraq was not responding to Arab or super-power demands, but following its own agenda.

"We refuse to respond to empty chatter, here and there, by malicious people to whom we give no weight," the statement said. "We are only committed to our principles and to ourselves and the duty carried out by our courageous forces."

An Iraqi government spokesman warned, however, that if anyone took action against Iraqi forces, Iraq would "chop off his arm from the shoulder."



Summit is delayed

(Continued from page 1)

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Arafat did not address the news conference and Mubarak said he had flown to Iraq for a meeting with President Saddam Hussein "to relay the points of view." He did not elaborate.

Meanwhile, Abdul Rahman Al Awadi, Kuwait's minister for cabinet affairs, said his country rejects any conditional Iraqi withdrawal, the state-run Middle East News Agency (MENA) reported.

His comment came in response to Iraq's announcement late Friday that it would withdraw from Kuwait but that the ruling family of Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah would not resume power.

Awadi heads a delegation to a pan-Islamic conference in Cairo scheduled to end later Saturday.

Asked Saturday about an Iraqi assurance to him before the invasion that no force would be used, Mubarak said:

"I cannot say it was a stab in the back because if someone is

planning an invasion he would not tell the others about it because this will spoil everything."

"Really I was upset and so was every single person in our country and the Arab World and maybe internationally. It seems the invasion was planned before. I don't know when but I hope I can solve it now."

Asked why Egypt and other Arab states had waited more than 24 hours before they condemned the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, and whether that meant that the Arabs were afraid of Iraq, Mubarak said:

"No, don't understand it this way... we waited for 24 hours because we were making great efforts in this direction, hoping that these efforts may conclude something quickly. We should not be nervous in dealing with problems but we had to understand all the reasons and make efforts."

Mubarak said that he and Arab leaders were trying to bring about a mini-Arab summit because it could be more effective in resolv-

ing the crisis. He said an emergency Arab summit would not be considered except "as a last resort if we do not reach anything."

Arafat flew to Alexandria earlier Saturday for talks with Mubarak.

Arafat held talks with Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi Friday. On Saturday, the Libyan news agency said that Qadhafi and Arafat had formulated a peace plan that makes an Arab summit on the incursion unnecessary.

The agency gave no further details. Mubarak did not mention whether the Libyan-Palestinian plan was discussed. Egyptian government sources said it would probably not play any important role in resolving the problem.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa said on French Radio he understood the Jeddah meeting would not take place.

"According to my information there will be no Arab summit in Jeddah. This meeting will not take place," the told Radio France Internationale.

In Baghdad, Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh said after talks with President Hussein Saturday that he was satisfied with the Iraqi leader's efforts to withdraw his forces from Kuwait. The Iraqi News Agency (INA) said.

"We express our satisfaction with and appreciation for the deep understanding shown by my brother President Saddam Hussein as well as his response to brotherly efforts to withdraw Iraqi forces from Kuwaiti territory," Saleh said, according to INA.

"This epitomises his eagerness to deal with the situation with wisdom and to prevent the Arab Nation's enemies from implementing their aggressive schemes."

The Iraqi leadership announced Friday that it would start a conditional withdrawal of its 100,000 troops in Kuwait Sunday, leaving behind a Baghdad-backed government and barring the return of the ruling Sabah family.

Saleh, who arrived in Baghdad

at dawn Saturday, said his visit was part of Yemen's efforts "to contain and overcome these events within the framework of joint Arab action," he was quoted as saying in a statement to INA before returning to Sanaa.

Yemen is a member of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) with Iraq, Egypt and Jordan. It did not endorse demands Friday by 13 of the 21 Arab League members for Iraq to withdraw its troops from Kuwait.

The Qatar News Agency (QNA) reported earlier that Saleh received a message from Hussein Friday through Iraqi first Deputy Premier Taha Yassin Ramadan.

Quoting Sanaa Radio, QNA said Saleh had sent messages to leaders of the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council on efforts being made by Yemen and other Arab states to end the problem within an Arab framework.

The Yemeni leader earlier had a telephone conversation with



Hosni Mubarak

U.S. President George Bush on the latest developments following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, QNA said.

Iraq denies

(Continued from page 1)

before the Iraqis moved into his country.

Until June, Sheikh Ali was Kuwait's oil minister. For 12 years he championed a policy of low oil prices, enraging Iraq. Friends feared that the sheikh was high on the Iraqi army's wanted list.

Iraq said Saturday that the provisional government it supports in Kuwait formed a "popular army" that thousands of Iraqis immediately volunteered to join.

Iraq said it would begin withdrawing its regular army from Kuwait Sunday, if neither country was threatened. Kuwaiti diplomats outside their country, who reached it by phone, said Iraqi tanks pulled out of central Kuwait City.

Kuwait City appeared quiet with no reports of gunfire Saturday, two days after Iraqi troops invaded the Gulf state, a British Foreign Office spokesman said.

Traffic was light and Iraqi troops made cursory vehicle checks at roadblocks. "It looks much calmer," the spokesman said.

News from inside Kuwait dwindled after international telephone lines were cut Friday.

Britain said Iraq's statement that its troops would start to leave Sunday was unacceptable. "They have to withdraw unconditionally," the Foreign Office said.

In pointing to pull out its troops, Iraq said the emir of Kuwait would not be allowed to regain power.

The Foreign Office said one of two Britons missing since the invasion had turned up and efforts continued to locate the other one. There are about 3,000 Britons in Kuwait.

Some 367 transit passengers and 78 British Airways staff, trapped

in Kuwait by the invasion, were still waiting in hotels.

A report from Kuwait in the Financial Times said life in the city was surprisingly normal with residents and Iraqi soldiers alike shopping in well-stocked stores.

The newspaper's correspondent reported that petrol Friday and bread and milk seemed to be the only goods in short supply.

"In spite of outbreaks of artillery and automatic fire near the state palace yesterday (Friday) morning as small pockets of Kuwaiti troops continued to resist the invasion, life in the capital was surprisingly normal," he wrote.

A woman who lives on the Kuwait university campus was reached by her family in Bahrain and they quoted her as saying, "The situation is very quiet, almost eerie, and tense."

Guns were silent but the residents could determine nothing much about what was going on, with the British Broadcasting Corporation news their main source of information.

Iraqi soldiers were moving around but not harassing anyone, except for stopping cars and "politely" asking people to step out so they could check them, she said.

The London office of the Kuwait News Agency announced that the transmitter for a clandestine radio station in Kuwait loyal to the deposed regime had been restored and would begin broadcasting again within hours.

Believed working from a mobile unit, it was knocked off the air Friday after issuing an appeal from the Kuwaiti people to "rush, rush to their help."

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U.S., West study muscles to counter Iraq

LONDON (Agencies) — Leaders in Europe, Japan, the United States, and Middle East were using diplomacy, economic sanctions and military muscle Saturday to prod Iraq to pull its estimated 100,000 troops from Kuwait.

The 12-nation European Community (EC) Saturday imposed an oil embargo against Iraq for invading Kuwait, and major industrial nations have frozen Kuwaiti and Iraqi assets. The United States has beefed up naval forces in the Gulf area, and NATO is discussing possible action if Iraq does not withdraw its forces from Kuwait.

Arab diplomatic efforts to resolve the crisis floundered for the moment Saturday as leaders put off plans to hold a summit in Saudi Arabia on the invasion.

The European Community decision to move against Iraq was taken during a meeting of senior EC foreign ministry officials in Rome called by Italy, current EC president.

The senior foreign ministry officials decided to take "appropriate measures" to freeze Iraqi assets and said they were suspending sales of arms and other military equipment to Iraq and cooperation in the military, technical and scientific fields, according to a communiqué.

The United States also has imposed an embargo on Iraqi oil, included in a decree issued Thursday that blocked all imports from that country.

The action was the latest in a series of world sanctions against Baghdad.

Arab leaders had planned to gather Sunday in Saudi Arabia to discuss the invasion, but Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said

the meeting was postponed. He told reporters a new summit plan might be agreed upon within 48 hours.

However, Jordanian officials said the meeting was postponed because of a dispute over Kuwait representation in the gathering.

The Soviet press Saturday unleashed harsh criticism Saturday against Iraq and its leader, Saddam Hussein, denouncing its old ally as a "totalitarian regime" and calling the attack on Kuwait a "blitzkrieg."

While press accounts did not criticize Hussein by name, they did refer negatively to "Baghdad's rulers," and expressed regret that Soviet weaponry was used to satisfy "the ambitious designs of near-sighted politicians."

Moscow and Baghdad have had a friendship treaty since 1972, and the Soviet Union is Iraq's major arms supplier.

The Soviet Union froze arms shipments to Iraq after the invasion, and the United States and Soviet Union made an unprecedented joint condemnation of Iraq and called on all countries to cut off Baghdad's arms supply.

The statement was read by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze in Moscow on Friday.

France has suspended arms sales to Iraq and joined the United States in freezing Iraqi and Kuwaiti assets.

British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said: "We are prepared to go a long way. This is no longer just a Middle East problem. It is aggression."

Britain announced it was send-

ing two frigates to join the HMS York in the Gulf, and France said it would station a second warship in the waterway. Washington said a third aircraft carrier was being readied to head to the Middle East to bolster the eight-ship U.S. navy presence already there.

Protests against the Iraqi invasion grew Friday with condemnations from the Organisation of African Unity, China, India, Tunisia and Zimbabwe.

Italy suspended arms exports to Iraq, and Czechoslovakia cut off all shipments that could "serve a military purpose."

Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen hinted Saturday that his country would not impose sanctions against Iraq.

"The issue should be solved within the scope of inter-Arab relations," the official Xinhua news agency paraphrased Qian as saying.

China has officially denied selling any weapons to Iraq, but Western intelligence reports indicate Beijing supplied billions of dollars worth of arms, including anti-ship Silkworm missiles, to Iraq.

At NATO headquarters in Brussels, Belgium, the United States alerted its allies that "Iraq may have designs beyond Kuwait" and said it has drawn up "contingency plans of action to respond to that eventuality," an alliance source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said.

He referred to reports that Iraqi soldiers were massing near Kuwait's border with Saudi Arabia. He did not, however, say what those plans were.

The U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Thomas Pick-

ering, said the Security Council was discussing a U.S. proposal for sweeping economic and military sanctions against Iraq and that they could be adopted this weekend.

Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu of Japan told President Bush that Japan was ready to impose economic sanctions if the United Nations votes to do so, the Foreign Ministry said.

Japan, West Germany, Italy, Belgium, Denmark, the Netherlands, Norway and Luxembourg announced that they would also freeze Kuwaiti assets to protect them from being seized by the provisional government installed in Kuwait by Iraq.

The United States, Britain and France froze Kuwait assets on Thursday, and Switzerland ordered its banks to increase vigilance over Kuwaiti assets to prevent their seizure.

On Friday, Egypt and the Gulf Cooperation Council condemned the invasion and called for an immediate Iraqi withdrawal.

The council's members — Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Oman — demanded that the Arab League preserve Kuwait's sovereignty.

The Arab League Council also condemned the attack but warned against foreign intervention. It said the issue would be taken up by Arab leaders who would decide whether to hold a summit to find "a lasting negotiated solution acceptable by the two sides."

Hundreds of Kuwaitis demonstrated against Iraq at the hotel in Cairo, Egypt, where the Arab League Council, met, and in several European cities.

Kaifu backs U.N. sanctions on Iraq

TOKYO (R) — Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu assured the United States Saturday that Japan would act in tandem with world powers to impose broad sanctions against Iraq for its take-over of Kuwait, government officials said.

"If a withdrawal of Iraqi forces does not take place, (Japan) will take the necessary measures as soon as possible," Kaifu told President George Bush in a telephone conversation, according to a Japanese Foreign Ministry official.

The official said Bush had called Kaifu to urge the Japanese leader to back a U.S. push for full economic sanctions against Iraq.

"If a (U.N.) resolution based on sanctions...is passed, we are ready to abide by it faithfully," the official quoted Kaifu as saying.

Other officials said that while Bush's request for cooperation and swift action would expedite Japan's response to the takeover, it was unlikely Japan would act before the United Nations Security Council passed a resolution that could include sanctions against Baghdad.

"Whatever happens in the U.N., it'll still take a couple of days at this end," said a Trade Ministry official.

On Friday, Japan joined other nations in announcing an effective freeze on Kuwait's assets in Japan. But Foreign Ministry spokesman Taizo Watanabe said it would take time for Japan to draw up a full response.

A decision by the Security Council will give the legal basis we need to proceed," he added.

The United States Friday circulated a draft resolution calling for sanctions that would outlaw virtually all trade with Iraq and Kuwait, two of the world's biggest oil producers.

The draft, being studied by the five permanent Security Council members, would bar the import of all commodities and products from those two countries, and also prohibit the sale to them of all goods, including arms.

"We should not accept the current situation (in Kuwait)," Bush was quoted as saying in the 20-minute call. "It is critical to have Japan's cooperation."

Bush said he had already secured similar pledges for cooperation on the resolution from the leaders of Britain, France and West Germany.

Private consultations on the draft were expected to continue over the weekend, with the United States anxious to press for its speedy adoption.

Some Security Council members were said to be awaiting the outcome of an Arab summit meeting in Jeddah Sunday before voting to impose sanctions.

In the telephone conversation, Bush also praised the Soviet Union for joining the United States Friday in appealing for a world arms ban against the Iraqi government of Saddam Hussein.

"I am grateful that the Soviet Union is playing such a constructive role," the official quoted Bush as saying.

Trade Ministry officials, briefing Kaifu on Japan's energy outlook later Saturday, said it would have difficulty in securing alternative sources of oil.

"Japan depends on Iraq and Kuwait for over 12 per cent of its oil imports," a trade official said.

"We can't ignore this and, moreover, with a recent OPEC decision to cut back production Japan will face difficulty in finding alternative sources of oil."

Japan, the world's second largest oil importer after the United States, purchased 217,000 barrels per day (bpd) from Iraq and 167,000 bpd from Kuwait in 1989.

Japanese sanctions would probably affect credits Tokyo decided in February to extend to Iraq.

The loans, worth some 400 billion yen (\$2.6 billion), were part of agreements signed in 1974 and 1977 and suspended after Baghdad started deferring repayments in 1986.

On Thursday, Bush banned U.S. imports of Iraqi crude and called for international efforts to end Iraq's occupation of Kuwait.

In addition to an embargo on arms to Iraq agreed by Washington and Moscow, the U.S., Britain, France, Japan, West Germany and Canada have all acted to prevent an Iraqi-installed government from gaining control of Kuwait's huge overseas investments.

EC blockades Iraqi assets, bans oil imports

ROME (Agencies) — The European Community (EC) froze Iraqi assets, halted all oil imports from Baghdad and banned arms sales Saturday to punish Iraq for invading Kuwait.

The EC members said they were prepared to support and enforce United Nations sanctions against Iraq if Baghdad failed to heed calls for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of its troops.

An official statement issued at the end of a five and half hour meeting of top EC officials ordered an immediate embargo on oil imports from Iraq and Kuwait and banned any arms sales to Baghdad as well as freezing Iraqi assets in their countries.

The statement also announced suspension of the EC's general system of preferences, which offers nations duty free access for manufactured goods. The move is aimed at denying Iraq trade advantages for its petrochemical exports.

Giovanni Castellaneta, an Italian Foreign Ministry spokesman, said the steps were designed to pressure Iraq into an immediate, unconditional withdrawal of its forces from Kuwait.

The statement condemned the "brutal" Iraqi invasion and described as "groundless and un-

acceptable" Iraq's justification for the military action.

The EC countries said they would do everything they could to avoid an implicit recognition of the so-called provisional government installed in Kuwait.

The statement said the member countries also decided to take steps to protect Kuwaiti assets. Several had earlier announced separate moves to freeze Kuwaiti assets to deny Iraq financial advantage from its invasion.

Some had also halted arms sales.

The statement said the EC was ready to take part in any effort to defuse the crisis and was in close contact with several Arab governments.

Italy, which holds the rotating presidency of the EC, called the meeting to fashion a joint response to Iraq's invasion.

In 1989, oil from both Iraq and Kuwait accounted for 10.9 per cent of the EC's total imports. Within the EC, Denmark is the most dependent on oil from the two countries, importing 54 per cent of its oil from them.

The strongest measure agreed was a ban on imports of Iraqi and Kuwaiti crude oil, which together amounted to 43.5 million tonnes in 1989, representing 10.9 per cent of EC imports.

But the 12 made clear they were prepared to go much further. The statement said the community was willing to implement any U.N. Security Council resolution on mandatory and comprehensive sanctions against Baghdad, should its troops fail to withdraw.

This appeared to imply that EC states would be willing to send naval units to the Gulf to enforce any U.N.-ordered blockade.

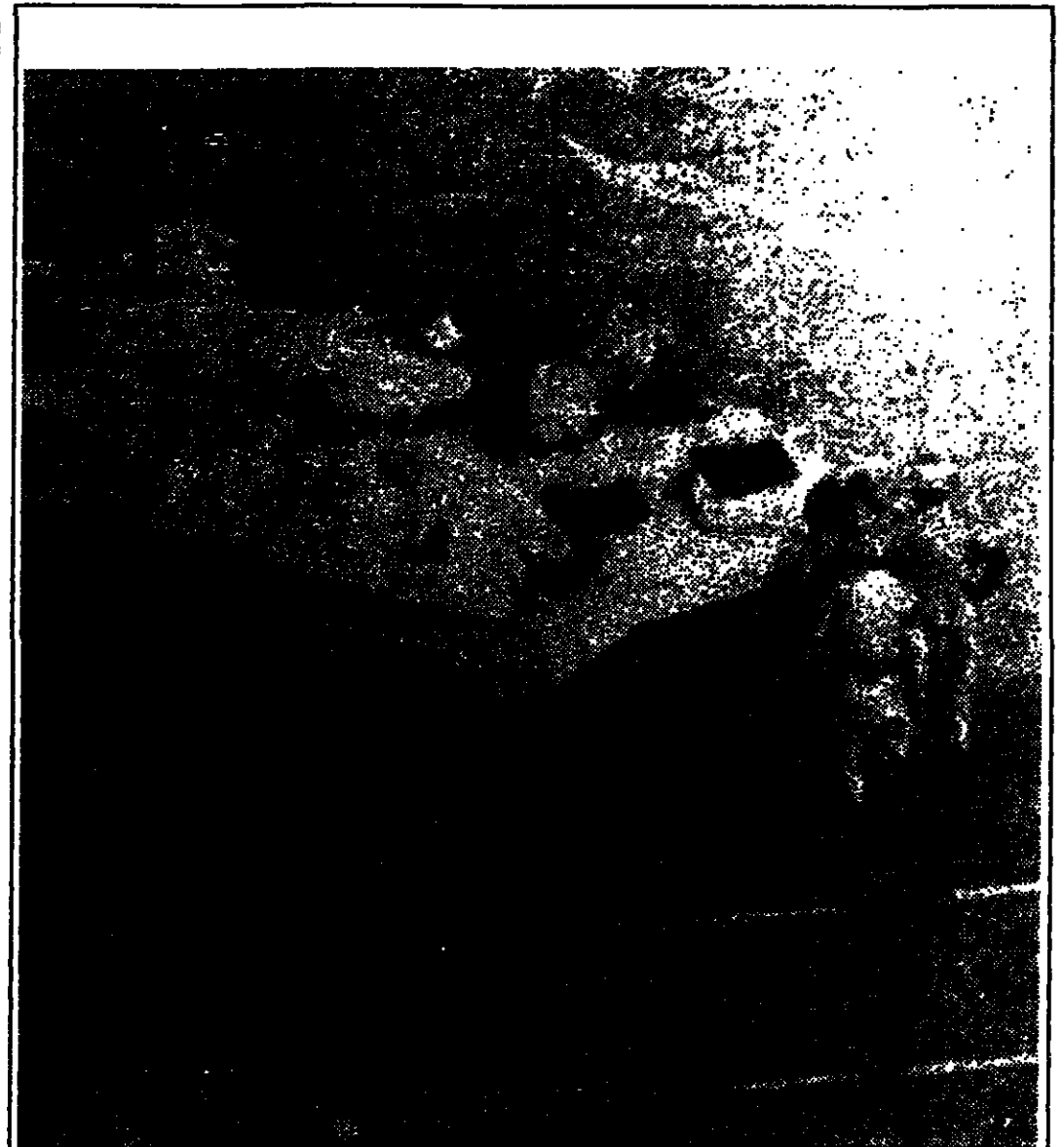
In Paris, a French Foreign Ministry spokesman said earlier that the suggestion for an embargo on Iraqi oil imports had come from President Francois Mitterrand.

Italian officials said Saturday's EC statement was adopted unanimously.

Italian Foreign Minister Gianni De Michelis said earlier that the EC was bracing itself for any Iraqi retaliation, adding that he expected Baghdad to answer the community sanctions on an economic front.

All 12 delegations attending the meeting arrived with full lists of their countries' business involvements in Iraq.

De Michelis said before the meeting began that all the EC members were ready to meet fully the consequences of their action against Iraq.



IRAQIS IN KUWAIT: Iraqi troops and an Iraqi tank in the Salhya district of Kuwait Friday

American customs seizes Iraqi crude

HOUSTON (R) — U.S. customs seized 312,000 barrels of Iraqi crude at the port of Corpus Christi, Texas, Thursday under the guidelines of an executive order banning trade with Iraq, a customs official said.

The official, who asked not to be identified, said the crude was seized from the lightering vessel Helleport Dignity as it entered port.

It was not immediately clear if there is additional Iraqi crude awaiting delivery from the mother vessel stationed outside U.S. waters, but the official said all Iraqi crude entering the United States will be seized.

Oil companies issued statements saying they will comply with the presidential order.

"We do have some Iraqi crude in transit and we are complying with the order," said Mark Singer, a spokesman for Royal Dutch Shell group's Shell Oil Co.

The status of other vessels, including a Kuwaiti flagged vessel called the Al Mubarakiah was still unknown because the vessel cannot enter the Houston ship channel until salvage workers refloat a damaged barge that has partially closed the channel since Saturday.

Iran calls for regional solution to Gulf crisis

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Iran, long at odds with the Arab world over its conflict with Iraq, said Saturday a regional solution must be found to the Iraqi take-over of Kuwait so that the U.S. would not have an excuse to intervene in the region.

A commentary carried by Tehran Radio also condemned the Iraqi action but said the West and the Arab World had only themselves to blame for the situation in the region.

Also Saturday, an Iraqi opposition leader based in Iran said hundreds of opposition members living in exile in Kuwait were being forcibly returned to Iraq.

The Tehran Radio commentary said an regional solution must be found to avoid giving the United States an excuse to intervene in the region.

It warned that "the continuation of this situation will clearly face the region with a new, long-term crisis."

"Foreign military intervention, more than economic and military embargoes, will make the Persian Gulf a flashpoint," it said.

Tehran Radio said that countries which backed Iraq refused to heed Iran's repeated warnings about Baghdad's "territorial

ambitions" and were paying the price.

"The world, and especially the backers of the Iraqi regime, were warned that military arming of Iraq, and providing all economic and political means to strengthen this regime, will have very dangerous effects for the future of the region, and will give a boost to the invader for future attempts," the radio said.

The broadcast added that "unfortunately these warnings fell on deaf ears, and the two superpowers, and beside them most Western governments, blindly strengthened Iraq militarily, and armed this regime to the teeth."

The United States resumed diplomatic ties with Iraq in 1984 and provided trade credits, but not military aid. U.S. relations with Iran were severed after the 1979 revolution.

The Soviet Union, China, France, and a number of other Western countries supplied arms to Iraq, while Iran obtained most of its arms from other East bloc countries and from North Korea.

Mohammed Bakr Hakim, leader of the supreme assembly of the "Islamic Revolution of Iraq," said Muslims in Iraq should have no role in "this blatant aggression."

Hakim heads the Shi'ite Muslim opposition to the Iraqi government. Dozens of family members were executed or fled Iraq.

The international human rights group Amnesty International also reported Friday that hundreds of Iraqi dissidents were being sent back to Iraq.

An Iranian newspaper said Saturday that in Iran "there is not much sympathy for Kuwait's predicament from the man on the street."

Another Iranian daily, Jomhuri Islami, also condemned Kuwaiti backing of Iraq in the war.

"Those who are appealing for help today and urging others to condemn aggression, praised Iraq's aggressions and crimes during the war, the paper said."

The Tehran Radio commentary accused countries in the region of using Iran's 1979 fundamentalist revolution as a threat to back Iraq.

"These governments of the region, without any real understanding of the future, and by enlarging the supposed Iranian threat, either voluntarily or through coercion, backed Iraq, and gave it whatever it wanted," the radio said.

Iran, Britain to restore ties

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani said Saturday Tehran will restore ties with London, more than a year after his country severed relations over the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's death call on author Salman Rushdie.

The Islamic Republic news agency, monitored in Nicosia, quoted an Iranian official as saying that recent remarks by British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd had made resumption of ties possible.

Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani had instructed the foreign ministry to proceed with restoration of ties following a meeting of the national security council Saturday, IRNA said.

Hussein Musavian, director general for West European affairs at the Iranian Foreign Ministry, said Hurd's remarks met conditions set by an Iranian parliamentary ruling last year for resumption of ties with Britain.

Hurd said in a foreign office letter released Wednesday that his government has no wish to insult Islam and it understands that Rushdie's book offended Muslims.

"The British government had nothing to do with the publishing of 'The Satanic Verses,'" Hurd

said in his letter.

The letter did not specifically condemn the book, but Musavian's remarks indicated that Iran was prepared to accept it as a condemnation.

IRNA quoted him as saying that the letter was an "adequate response to the demand set by the Majlis," or parliament.

"The members unanimously agreed that the Majlis demand has been met with, thus, removing the legal obstacle in the way of resumption of political ties between the two countries," IRNA quoted Musavian as saying.

The March 1989 ruling banned any restoration of ties with London unless the British government condemned Rushdie's book, "The Satanic Verses," and pledged to respect Islam.

The parliament ruling, pushed through by radicals who oppose relations with the West, had been the greatest obstacle to resumption of Tehran-London ties.

The British government had been seeking to restore ties in order to try to gain Iranian help in freeing British hostages held in Lebanon.

There are four Britons among

Syria wants pullout

NICOSIA (R) — Syria, Iraq's main Arab rival, demanded Saturday Baghdad withdraw its force unconditionally from Kuwait and reinstate the ruling family.

"Syria demands the Iraqi troops' immediate, unconditional withdrawal from Kuwaiti territories and the return of the Kuwaiti government to assume its duties," a Foreign Ministry statement said.

All Arab disputes should be resolved through dialogue, it said. Force "was not only rejected but should be taboo because it contradicts the Arab League Charter and international law."

The official daily Al Thawra said the invasion served only Israel and looked like an attempt to weaken Arabs.

"Resort to arms and occupation of Arab lands under any pretext is totally rejected and can not be justified," it said.

"Any attempt to create side battles and conflicts which divert the Arab Nation's attention from the main effort against the enemy (Israel) is suspicious as it weakens Arab resources."

Iraq says 140,000 answer call to arms

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq said over 140,000 volunteers, many of them Gulf war veterans, reported for duty in southern cities Saturday to defend Iraq and Kuwait from outside attack.

Baghdad Radio said the men offered to join the "popular army" being formed over the border in Kuwait by a "revolutionary government."

The Kuwaiti administration, still unnamed, announced it was creating its army after Iraq said its own forces would start to pull out of the country Sunday.

Washington reported a massive Iraqi troop presence near the Saudi frontier in southern Kuwait. It has warned Baghdad against attacking Saudi Arabia and is building U.S. naval strength in the region.

Baghdad Radio said a total of 140,819 reservists, retired soldiers and ordinary Iraqis had reported for duty in five southern towns — Basra, Misan, Kut, Nasiriyah and Wasit.

"They are volunteering to aid brethren in Kuwait to defend the Kuwaiti revolution and to stand as strong barriers and drawn swords to confront all those who may think of encroaching upon our great Iraq or the soil of Kuwait," the radio said.

President Saddam Hussein, hours after sending an estimated 100,000 men into Kuwait Thursday, called on Iraqis to enlist for military duty.

The Iraqi leadership said Friday night it would start a conditional withdrawal of troops from Kuwait Sunday, leaving a

OIC condemns Iraq

CAIRO (AP) — A pan-Islamic conference, so far silent on Iraq's take-over of Kuwait, Saturday drafted a resolution condemning the incursion and demanding the immediate withdrawal of Iraqi forces.

The draft resolution mentioned Iraq by name and demanded it withdraw from Kuwait, "respect peaceful means, and avoid interference in any country's affairs."

The document is to be presented for approval to foreign ministers and heads of delegations of 45 Islamic countries who round up their five-day meeting late Saturday. Sources close to the conference leaked it to reporters.

All the Arab countries are included in the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC).

The event, begun last Tuesday with a speech by President Hosni Mubarak, has been largely overshadowed by Iraq's take-over of Kuwait two days after its start.

The OIC discussed a number of issues concerning the Islamic World, including the Iran-Iraq peace efforts, the Afghan question and the Kashmir problem in India.

Iraq's take-over of Kuwait was not placed on the agenda, and although diplomatic sources said a number of member states condemned the act, an outright resolution attacking it was not expected.

"Oil in transit"

The U.S. Treasury Department said Friday that Iraqi and Kuwaiti oil loaded before 5 a.m. on August 2 and unloaded in the United States before midnight on Oct. 1 would not be subject to a freeze against the two country's assets.

President George Bush froze all assets of the two countries Thursday morning after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

Kuwait has extensive investments in the United States and U.S. authorities did not want an Iraqi-backed government in Kuwait to get access to assets worth billions of dollars.

Treasury Department spokesman said at a briefing that any transaction involving Iraqi or Kuwaiti oil in transit must be reported to the Office of Foreign Assets Control. Any unpaid balance not yet paid to Iraq or Kuwait must be paid into a blocked account in the United States.

The department also said a licence would be issued authorising U.S. financial institutions to accept deposits and clear cheques written on blocked accounts of Kuwait-controlled firms in the United States provided no benefit flows to Iraq.

Tourisme

Aqaba, lieu de tous les projets

Un restaurant sous-marin; un téléphérique reliant un hôtel au sommet d'une montagne; un théâtre tout neuf; un village de vacances;... Toutes sortes de projets fleurissent aujourd'hui à Aqaba, l'unique station balnéaire de Jordanie... Fleurissent, ou

plutôt bourgeonnent, car malgré tous ses atouts et tous ses efforts, Aqaba a du mal à attirer les investisseurs étrangers, dont les capitaux sont pourtant indispensables à l'épanouissement de la plupart de ces bonnes idées.



CLIN 
D'CEIL

Grâce présidentielle

Anis Naccache n'aurait jamais cru à tant de générosité il y a peu. Mais voilà, le monde change. Même l'Iran a réussi à assagir ses Ayatollahs naguère assoiffés d'exporter coûte que coûte leur révolution. Le résultat est donc là. Un rééquilibrage politique tous azimuts, conforme aux intérêts des uns et des autres. Du coup, le président Mitterrand n'avait plus besoin de prétexte pour accorder sa grâce.

Mais, après cela, que l'on ne dise pas un jour, en Occident, que la série noire d'attentats et de tentatives d'attentats terroristes ne fut qu'une erreur de parcours. Une erreur commise par un clergé manquant de maturité politique. Un clergé capricieux quoi...

Ayman Masamant

Affluence

1.000 personnes, en moyenne, entrent et sortent quotidiennement d'Aqaba, mais compte tenu de la chaleur qui y règne l'été, la saison haute ne commence vraiment qu'en octobre et se termine au mois de mai. Une fête d'ouverture de la saison touristique est d'ailleurs prévue cette année le 22 octobre.

Pour éviter que le tourisme à Aqaba ne devienne l'apanage des groupes ou individus étrangers, le ministère du tourisme oblige les hôtels à pratiquer des prix nettement inférieurs en faveur des touristes porteurs d'un passeport jordanien. Ainsi les hôtels pratiquent trois tarifs différents selon que le client est membre d'un groupe de plus de 15 personnes, étranger, ou jordanien.

Une des chances d'Aqaba est d'être située aux confins de trois pays arabes: la Jordanie, l'Arabie Saoudite et l'Egypte, qui lui apportent un lot non négligeable de touristes nationaux ou étran-

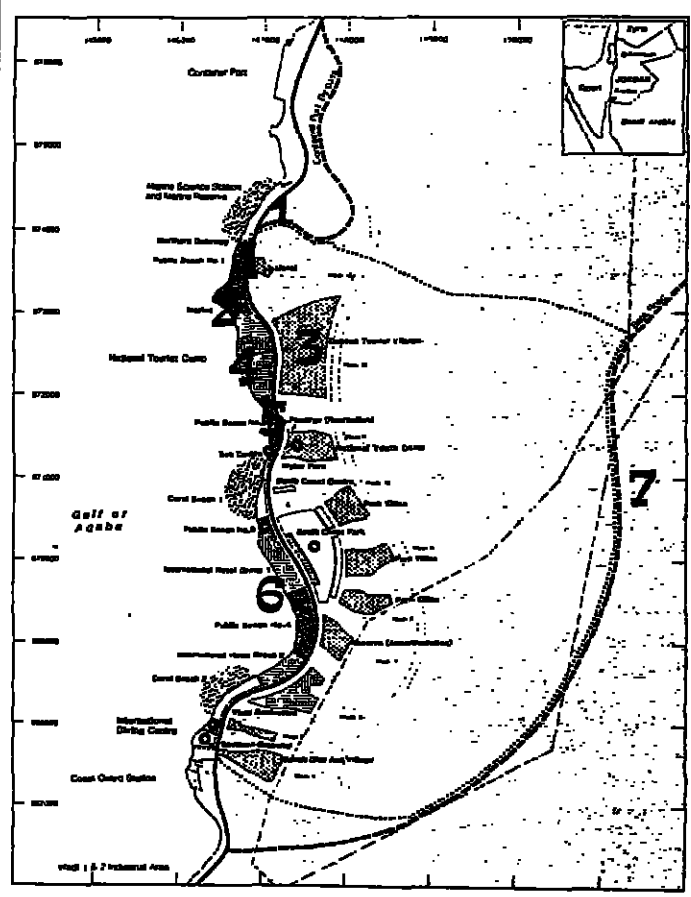
gers. Cela en fait aussi un lieu stratégique, d'autant plus qu'à quelques kilomètres seulement Israël fait office de quatrième voisin. Les touristes sont parfois surpris d'être arrêtés systématiquement quelques kilomètres avant l'arrivée à Aqaba pour un contrôle d'identité. C'est une mesure nécessaire pour préserver la sécurité du port, vital pour le pays. Depuis vingt ans, d'ailleurs (y compris pendant la guerre de 1973), Aqaba a réussi à éviter tout incident avec le voisin israélien.

Il reste qu'ajouté à l'instabilité du dinar, le regain de tension réel ou supposé entre Israël et les pays arabes est peut-être une explication du soudain refroidissement des investisseurs internationaux vis à vis d'Aqaba.

Pour le tourisme aussi, la préservation de la paix est une valeur certaine.

Jean-Marc Bordès et Sabah al-Hadidi

7 km où tout se joue



- 1-Plage publique
- 2-Club de vacances (projet)
- 3-Village de vacances (projet)
- 4-Camping
- 5-Plage publique
- 6-Hôtels internationaux
- 7-Déviations pour les camions (ouverture en novembre).

Où dormir, à quel prix

Hôtels 4 étoiles

70 dinars la chambre simple et 120 dinars la chambre double pour les étrangers; 22 dinars la chambre simple et 28 dinars la chambre double pour les Jordaniens.

Holiday International. tel. 312.426.
Coral Beach. tel. 313.522

Hôtels 3 étoiles

40 dinars la chambre simple et 55 dinars la chambre double pour les étrangers; 13 dinars la chambre simple et 17 dinars la chambre double pour les Jordaniens.

Aquamarina 1. tel. 316.250.
Aquamarina 2. tel. 315.165.
Aqaba hotel. tel. 314.091.
Alkassar. tel. 314.131.
Miramar. tel. 414.341.
Aqaba an. tel. 316.896.

Hôtels 2 étoiles

20 dinars la chambre simple et 25 dinars la chambre double pour les étrangers; 8 dinars la chambre simple et 12 dinars la chambre double pour les Jordaniens.

Norouk. tel. 312.984.
Alchoucha. tel. 315.155.

Hôtels 1 étoile

12 dinars la chambre simple et 15 dinars la chambre double pour les étrangers; 5 dinars la chambre simple et 7 dinars la chambre double pour les Jordaniens.

Manarah. tel. 314.366.
Nouemam. tel. 315.142.
Naber al Khaled. tel. 312.456.
Zahrata al-Oudoun. tel. 314.377.
Al Khoulil. tel. 312.207.
Baher al Akmer. tel. 312.156.
Palm Beach. tel. 315.551.
Al Dhabet. tel. 316.480.
Al Abassi. tel. 313.403.
Al Jamil. tel. 314.118.
Al Chateh. tel. 315.108.
Al Yamama. tel. 314.612.

Hôtels hors catégorie

3 dinars la chambre simple et 5 dinars la chambre double, quelle que soit la nationalité.

Kasser al-Nil. tel. 315.177.
Waha al-Khadrah. tel. 314.323.
Kandace. tel. 314.815.
Ratra. tel. 313.746.
Corniche. tel. 315.417.
Thagher al Oudoun. tel. 316.460.
Al Jaber. tel. 316.999.
Al Moudhane. tel. 314.105.
Haya. tel. 315.706.

Où manger

China. Restaurant chinois. tel. 314.415.
Ali Baba. Poissons et langoustines. tel. 313.901.
Bessman. tel. 313.740.
Be and She. Captain's. tel. 316.905.
Chili House. tel. 312.435.
Ala Ali.
Chicken Tikka. tel. 313.633.
Moutanazah al-Baladya. tel. 312.421.
Al Chateh. tel. 316.376.

Sur ses 26 km de côte, Aqaba offre aux touristes, du nord au sud, une palette très étendue de possibilités de séjour au bord de la mer, pour tous les goûts et pour toutes les bourses. Au nord, ce sont les grands hôtels avec leurs piscines, leurs plages privées, leurs installations sportives, leurs restaurants, leurs boîtes de nuit. Ils semblent avoir épuisé tous les noms que la mer Rouge peut inspirer: Coral Beach, Aquamarina, Aqaba hôtel, etc. Sans oublier l'Holiday International, où s'installent en général les personnalités de passage.

Selon l'hôtel, la formule est le bungalow ou la chambre traditionnelle, le repos-bronzage ou plus fatigant mais plus dynamique- le sport nautique-excursion.

En descendant vers le sud, on arrive au centre-ville, où se trouvent les hôtels meilleur marché, de catégorie inférieure, mais souvent très correctes. Et plus au sud encore, après les différents ports, ce sont les espaces quasi-vierges: des plages publiques avec ou sans parasols, et un camping où, pour un dinar par jour et par personne, on peut planter sa tente sur la plage, à l'ombre d'un petit toit, et bénéficier de douches et de sanitaires.

«Contrairement à Amman, où le problème est d'arriver à remplir les hôtels, explique Nouri Atallah, le secrétaire de cabinet du ministre du tourisme, le problème d'Aqaba est d'arriver à accueillir les touristes qui viennent de plus en plus nombreux de Jordanie et du monde entier.» Actuellement, pas moins de sept hôtels sont en construction, dont trois devraient ouvrir leurs portes d'ici la fin de l'année. Aqaba est en pleine évolution et fourmille de projets plus ou moins avancés selon les cas. Le cœur de tous ces projets est une zone de sept kilomètres, qui va de la station marine à la station des garde-côtes et où se trouvent déjà le camping et deux plages publiques auxquels il n'est pas question de toucher. Les projets du ministère du tourisme et de l'Aqaba Region Authority (voir carte) consistent à implanter, entre ces éléments, trois types d'installations nouvelles: un club de vacances de type Club Méditerranée, un village de vacances bon marché pour les Jordaniens et un ou deux hôtels internationaux. Tout est en place, les terrains sont disponibles, les prix sont fixés, l'organisation de l'ensemble est prévue, mais les investisseurs se font étrangement tirer l'oreille au moment de passer à l'étape de la réalisation. Le Club Méditerranée, qui devait s'installer en association avec la Royal Jordanian, s'est aujourd'hui retiré et plusieurs appels d'offre pour la construction du village de vacances (260 bungalows bon marché destinés à être vendus à crédit aux Jordaniens) sont restés sans réponse. Quant aux hôtels internationaux, ils sont toujours en négociation à l'heure actuelle.

Atouts

Et pourtant, Aqaba ne manque pas d'atouts pour le développement du tourisme. Comme le dit Bassam Kakish, le président de l'Aqaba Region Authority, «Aqaba est

un des rares points du globe où l'on puisse pratiquer tous les sports nautiques et avoir accès à une faune sous marine aussi riche, avec le soleil assuré 364 jours par an, pour des prix aussi modérés.» De fait, la faiblesse du dinar rend les activités à Aqaba meilleur marché que dans la plupart des autres zones touristiques. Et les activités ne manquent pas. Depuis 1986, le Royal Diving Center offre au touriste amateur ou professionnel tout l'équipement et toute la formation nécessaires à la plongée sous-marine avec ou sans bouteilles. Une occasion exceptionnelle d'observer



ver les centaines d'espèces de coraux et de poissons multicolores qui peuplent les fonds de la mer Rouge, avec, en prime, la possibilité d'acquiescer ainsi des diplômes et des certificats officiels de plongée. Pour ceux que le monde du silence effraie mais que les poissons-boîtes, poissons-pierres, poissons-picasso et autres poissons-clowns fascinent, l'aquarium de la station marine est accessible pour seulement 300 Fils.

Ski nautique, planche à voile et même scooter des mers se pratiquent dans les grands hôtels, qui offrent aussi toutes les possibilités d'excursion en bateau: petite barque à fond de verre pour voir les poissons dans leur milieu naturel sans se mouiller; plus gros bateaux pour aller pêcher au large; excursions d'une journée sur l'île égyptienne quasi déserte de Pharaon, etc...

La ville d'Aqaba en elle-même n'offre pas une quantité exceptionnelle d'activités mais il n'est pas désagréable d'y flâner, pour visiter le marché semi-couvert, chiner dans les 35 boutiques de souvenirs qu'elle recèle à la recherche d'un collier de corail ou d'une bouteille de sable coloré représentant tel ou tel paysage. Depuis cette année, le ministère du tourisme a ouvert, dans l'ancien château du roi Sharif Hussein Ben Ali, construit au début du siècle et doté d'un grand patio intérieur, un petit musée qui présente différentes pièces (poteries, bijoux, pierres portant des inscriptions arabes) découvertes sur les fouilles de l'ancienne cité d'Ayla qui se poursuivent encore actuellement. Dans une pièce annexe, a été aménagée une salle d'exposition qui présente en ce moment des photos en couleur, parfois très belles, de l'architecture traditionnelle dans neuf villages jordaniens.

On peut aussi aller manger du poisson frais dans un des restaurants de la ville ou manger chinois en regardant la mer au China, installé au sommet d'un immeuble du centre-ville.

Chevaux

Pour faire son tour en ville, on peut emprunter les fiacres que proposent quelques uns des grands hôtels. Mais on peut aussi pratiquer véritablement l'équitation sur la plage de l'extrême nord d'Aqaba, après le Coral Beach, pour 2 dinars la demi-heure.

Derrière la ville, dans les montagnes, ils est enfin possible de faire de la randonnée et de découvrir le commencement du désert... Un peu plus loin c'est le Wadi-Rum, puis Petra, puis la mer Morte, puis Amman et Jerash... Bref, Aqaba est en elle-même un lieu de séjour agréable et bon marché, mais elle est en plus un bon point de départ pour des excursions intéressantes dans toute la Jordanie.

On comprend mal, dans ces conditions, que les investisseurs ne se ruent pas sur la petite côte d'Aqaba avant qu'il ne soit trop tard. Pour les séduire, les autorités locales s'efforcent de combler les insuffisances culturelles de la ville en construisant un théâtre de 700 places. On s'efforce aussi de résoudre une certaine contradiction entre les activités portuaires d'Aqaba et ses activités touristiques. Il est certain que les milliers de camions qui traversent quotidiennement la ville pour acheminer des marchandises entre les bateaux et les différentes villes de Jordanie ou d'ailleurs sont une nuisance pour les touristes. En arrivant à Aqaba par la route du désert, par exemple, on traverse un immense champ de camions, de barreaux et de piles de pneus qui donne plus envie de faire demi-tour que de rentrer dans la ville. Pour résoudre ce problème une grande déviation a été réalisée, derrière les montagnes, qui entrera en service en novembre prochain et reliera directement le terminal portuaire à la route du désert en contournant Aqaba. «Il nous reste à nous débarrasser des 100.000 pneus abandonnés qui encombrant la ville», explique Bassam Kakish. C'est un problème compliqué car nous ne pouvons pas les brûler sur place sous peine de polluer l'atmosphère, mais nous allons trouver une solution.

Pour le trafic des passagers, à destination de l'Egypte notamment, une gare maritime ultra-moderne, aux allures d'aéroport, a été construite. Elle ouvrira ses portes en novembre et évitera les files d'attente en plein air qui étaient jusqu'ici le lot des voyageurs par bateau. Les projets publics, sont complétés par des projets privés. Simon Khouri, qui vient d'ouvrir son troisième hôtel Aquamarina à Aqaba -un des plus dynamiques à l'évidence- prévoit d'installer un téléphérique entre cet hôtel et le sommet de la montagne, pour y acheminer les touristes désirant faire une randonnée en altitude. Ce projet est financé mais il a plus de mal à trouver les fonds pour son projet de restaurant sous-marin dont les plans, réalisés par un architecte français,

EN BREF

Jordanie-Egypte. Le haut comité mixte jordanien-égyptien a achevé dimanche dernier ses travaux à Amman, sous la co-présidence des premiers ministres des deux pays, Moudar Badrane et Atef Sedki. Les deux pays ont signé un protocole portant de 18 à 250 millions de dollars le volume de leurs échanges commerciaux avec une opération de troc à parts égales de 40 millions de dollars.

Algérie. Le président algérien Chadli Bendjedid a décidé dimanche dernier de renouveler au cours du premier trimestre 1991 l'Assemblée populaire Nationale (parlement issu du FLN), dont le mandat devait s'achever en janvier 1992. Dans un communiqué, le bureau politique du FLN a estimé nécessaire de tirer tous les enseignements de l'expérience des élections communales et provinciales du 12 juin dernier, remportées par les islamistes. M. Bendjedid a toutefois lié l'annonce de ces élections parlementaires anticipées à la réunion de conditions de paix et de sécurité intérieure.

Liban. L'administration du président libanais Elias Hraoui a interdit lundi l'approvisionnement en carburant des zones chrétiennes tenues par le général Michel Aoun pour l'amener à se soumettre. Le ministre de la défense, Albert Mansour a affirmé, faisant allusion au général chrétien, que «le gouvernement est décidé à écarter l'obstacle qui entrave le processus de paix» en évitant, dans la mesure du possible de faire souffrir la population et d'avoir recours à la force.

Angleterre. L'Armée Républicaine Irlandaise (IRA) a revendiqué mardi l'attentat à la bombe qui a causé la mort lundi matin du parlementaire britannique Ian Gow. Proche du premier ministre Margaret Thatcher, Ian Gow était président de la commission parlementaire sur l'Irlande du Nord et condamnait systématiquement les méthodes terroristes après chaque attentat de l'IRA.

Allemagne. Le chancelier est-allemand Lothar de Maizière a proposé vendredi à son homologue ouest-allemand Helmut Kohl d'avancer les élections parlementaires communes aux deux pays, du 2 décembre au 14 octobre prochain. La proposition a été accueillie favorablement par le chancelier Kohl mais beaucoup plus fraîchement par l'opposition qui craint de ne pas avoir le temps d'organiser sa campagne. Les deux Etats ont par ailleurs décidé d'établir à Berlin leur future capitale commune.

Autriche. L'ancien chancelier autrichien Bruno Kreisky, 79 ans, est mort dimanche dernier près de Vienne, des suites d'une faiblesse cardiaque. Membre du parti socialiste, il avait dirigé sans interruption le gouvernement autrichien de 1970 à 1983. Sur le plan international, il est surtout connu pour avoir été le premier chef de gouvernement occidental à accueillir, en 1979, en visite officielle à Vienne, le chef de l'OLP, Yasser Arafat.

Prisons. Une semaine après la grâce présidentielle accordée au terroriste libanais pro-iranien Anis Naccache, les prisons françaises sont secouées par une nouvelle vague d'agitation. Les détenus refusent de regagner leurs cellules chaque soir, en signe de protestation contre cette libération, contre leurs conditions de détention aggravées par la canicule qui sévit actuellement en France, et contre le petit nombre de grâces traditionnellement accordées par le président de la République à l'occasion du 14 juillet: 200 détenus en ont bénéficié cette année contre 3.081 l'an dernier et 4.230 en 1988.

Littérature. Le romancier et scénariste français Georges Conchon est décédé dimanche dernier à l'âge de 65 ans, des suites d'une maladie soudaine. Romancier couronné du prix Goncourt en 1964 pour «L'état sauvage», il avait également fait carrière dans le cinéma comme scénariste avec «La victoire en chantant», «La banquière», «Le sucre» et «Sept morts sur ordonnance».

Exploit. La navigatrice française Florence Arthaud a battu vendredi le record mondial de traversée de l'Atlantique à la voile, détenu depuis 1987 par Bruno Peyron, en réalisant cet exploit, à bord du Trimaran Pierre Premier, en 9 jours, 21 heures et 42 minutes seulement.

Osé. Cinq jeunes français originaires de la Gironde (sud-ouest) qui avaient plongé de façon très risquée dans le fleuve Niagara, à cinquante mètres des célèbres chutes, ont été appréhendés par la police de Niagara Falls (New-York). «Je n'ai jamais rien vu de tel en 23 ans de métier» a déclaré le sergent Waldriff, membre de la police du Niagara Frontier State Park. Les chutes du Niagara ont un dénivelé de 65 mètres.

Koweït: l'invasion

Même si ses troupes quittaient aujourd'hui le Koweït comme il l'a promis hier, le président irakien Saddam Hussein a déjà réussi son coup: faire tomber l'émir Jaber al-Sabah pour le remplacer par un gouverneur fantôme, à sa solde. Il aura suffi de quelques heures aux irakiens pour s'emparer de leur petit mais si riche voisin. Une rapidité qui a surpris plus que les événements eux-mêmes, car la tension entre les deux pays couvait depuis plusieurs semaines.

Quelles sont, au juste, les motivations de Saddam Hussein? Derrière l'enjeu pétrolier, il faut comprendre les enjeux financiers et politiques de ce conflit, qui remontent à la guerre Iran-Irak. Cette guerre coûteuse a conduit les Irakiens à contracter une dette de 18 milliards de dollars à l'égard du Koweït. Or, la guerre terminée, Saddam Hussein estime que cette dette n'a pas à être remboursée; et qu'elle représente une indemnité légitime pour les huit années de sacrifice que son pays a consacrées à la défense des pays arabes contre l'Iran. Il estime aussi que le Koweït a profité du conflit pour lui voler son pétrole en pompant dans la nappe de Roumalla, à la frontière, et exige une compensation de 2,4 milliards de dollars. A ces revendications, le Koweït faisait la sourde oreille et, jusqu'à vendredi dernier, inondait le marché pétrolier avec l'Arabie Saoudite, empêchant une remontée du prix du baril et, du même coup, la reconstitution des réserves financières irakiennes.

Il va de soi que ce conflit ne fait pas l'affaire des pays importateurs de pétrole. En mettant un frein à l'ararchie de la production pétrolière, Saddam Hussein vise à mettre fin à la période du brut bon marché. Déjà, les acheteurs se ruent sur le brut de mer du Nord ou du Texas, qui ont fait un bon spectacle à l'annonce de ces événements. Conscients de l'enjeu, les pays importateurs n'ont pas tardé, Etats-Unis en tête (qui dépendent à près de 10% du pétrole irakien et koweïtien) à réagir en bloquant les avoirs irakiens et koweïtiens dans leurs banques, en condamnant l'invasion et en déplaçant sur place des forces navales. La France doit proposer aujourd'hui à ses partenaires européens à Rome un embargo total sur le pétrole irakien.

Une intervention militaire occidentale dans ce conflit, dont les Etats-Unis brandissent la menace en cas d'invasion de l'Arabie Saoudite, pourrait avoir des conséquences redoutables car l'Irak, surarmé et entraîné, a les moyens de se défendre violemment. Les chefs d'Etat arabes, et notamment le roi Hussein, s'efforcent d'éviter cette extrémité en plaçant et en travaillant pour un règlement arabe de la crise irako-koweïtienne. Le mini-ministre arabe qui doit réunir aujourd'hui à Djeddah les chefs d'Etat égyptien, saoudien, jordanien, irakien et koweïtien réussira peut-être à réconcilier les deux parties, mais l'émir du Koweït a déjà fait savoir qu'il n'y participera pas si Saddam Hussein est présent...

JMB



Entre la mer et la montagne, Aqaba fourmille de projets et évolue à vitesse grand V. (Photo offerte par Photo-Express).

nettoyement et ramassage des ordures

Amman, ville propre

Difficile de trouver un papier gras ou une épilure sur les trottoirs d'Amman. La capitale jordanienne est à coup sûr une des plus propres de la région, pour la plus grande satisfaction des touristes comme de ses habitants. Le secret de cette propreté, c'est le travail. Un travail discret, mais régulier et efficace.

Chaque jour, le matin ou le soir selon les quartiers, une tournée de nettoyage est réalisée dans toutes les rues (un jour sur deux dans certains quartiers éloignés). On ne se contente pas de vider les bennes à ordures; on balaye aussi soigneusement les trottoirs pour les débarrasser de tout corps étranger: feuille d'un arbre, caillou ou emballage de chewing-gum.

«Nous sommes bien aidés», se félicite Mohammed Banihani, chef du département de la propreté de la municipalité, par les citoyens d'Amman qui sont, dans l'ensemble, très disciplinés et soucieux de garder leurs rues propres. Il est rare que les poubelles ne soient pas déposées dans les bennes ou qu'un Jordanien jette quoi que ce soit par terre. La chose est sans doute moins vraie pour les touristes qui se sentent, à tort, moins concernés par la préservation de l'environnement.



Chaque semaine une tournée exceptionnelle est organisée pour nettoyer un lieu public particulier.

Au total (administration et main d'œuvre) ce sont 2.958 personnes qui travaillent à la propreté d'Amman. Avec des moyens classiques: camions à bascule pour les bennes à ordures, balais et sacs en plastique pour le nettoyage des rues et des trottoirs. «Nous envisageons de nous équiper de camions nettoyeurs explique Mohammed Banihani, mais les cinq que nous avons actuellement sont tous en panne».

La plus grande partie de la main d'œuvre au service du nettoyage est composée de travailleurs immigrés venus des pays voisins, et tout parti-

culièrement d'Egypte. Les 80 dinars que gagne un balayeur ne permettent pas à un Jordanien qui doit nourrir sa famille de vivre décemment mais peuvent suffire à un étranger venu seul, qui envoie une partie de son salaire dans son pays d'origine, où le coût de la vie est inférieur.

Pourtant, la crise économique et le chômage sont en train de faire évoluer les choses. De 80% dans les années 1980, le pourcentage de travailleurs étrangers est tombé aujourd'hui à 60% parmi les agents du nettoyage. Il arrive même que des Jordaniens disposant d'un baccalauréat de technicien supérieur et touchés par le chômage se présentent à la mairie pour être embauchés comme balayeurs ou ramasseurs de poubelles.

En 1988, la municipalité a dépensé plus de 5 millions de dinars pour l'entretien de la

ville, ce qui la situe dans la bonne moyenne mondiale de 12-15% du budget municipal consacré à ce service. Chaque jour 600 tonnes de déchets (0,6 kg par habitant) sont ramassés et enterrés près de Russeifa, à 15 km à l'est d'Amman.

En plus des tournées quotidiennes, le service de propreté d'Amman organise chaque semaine une tournée exceptionnelle sur un lieu public ou une autoroute, en fonction des besoins. Dans les grandes occasions, le service met les bouchées doubles. Pour le sommet arabe de la fin de l'année dernière, par exemple, trois mois ont été consacrés à nettoyer Amman de fond en comble et à repeindre les bordures des trottoirs.

Les «jardiniers de la propreté», comme on les appelait ici dans les années 1980, méritent bien un coup de chapeau. *Casim al-Qudah*

LA SEMAINE...

de Suleiman Sweiss

Facs: le canchamar des inscriptions

Il y a quelques jours, le Haut Conseil de l'Enseignement a fixé le nombre d'étudiants admissibles dans les quatre universités jordaniennes. Au total, 10.065 étudiants ayant obtenu une moyenne de 65 sur 100 à l'examen du Tawjihi (l'équivalent du baccalauréat) trouveront une place en octobre prochain pour poursuivre des études supérieures. Or, les résultats du Tawjihi, annoncés il y a deux semaines, indiquent que la moitié (52,4%) de ceux qui ont présenté l'examen ont réussi, soit 31.399 jeunes filles et garçons sur 59.946. A côté des universités, les «collèges de la communauté» -équivalents de polytechnique- pourront admettre environ 5.000 étudiants pour la rentrée prochaine.

Mais que feront les 16.334 jeunes restant admis au Tawjihi? D'habitude, un grand nombre d'entre eux prend le chemin de l'étranger, poursuivant leurs études supérieures dans les universités arabes, européennes etc... Au fil des années, cette solution est devenue plus courante car les frais d'études supérieures en Jordanie sont devenus aussi chers, sinon plus, qu'à l'étranger.

Depuis deux ans, cette «solution» est devenue presque impossible pour un très grand nombre d'étudiants, dont les frais d'études sont payés par leur famille. Ces derniers, en effet, sont devenus très coûteux, à cause de la dévaluation importante du dinar jordanien par rapport aux devises étrangères. A titre d'exemple, une famille qui envoyait 150 JD par mois à son fils avant octobre 1988 est obligée actuellement de lui envoyer presque le double de cette somme. Et cela sans compter les difficultés énormes auxquelles les familles se sont heurtées pour trouver des devises étrangères.

On se retrouve du coup devant le perpétuel problème: que feront nos jeunes de leur avenir? C'est la question que se posent des milliers de jeunes, de parents, d'amis, de pédagogues, bref une grande partie de la société, sans oublier ceux qui n'ont pas réussi le Tawjihi (28.547). Durant les trois semaines à venir, la machinerie sociale qu'on appelle «wasta» -le piston- va tourner jour et nuit. Les parents sont inquiets et la concurrence est très vive. Les bourses accordées par le roi et le ministère de l'Education à certaines catégories rendent la concurrence encore plus aiguë.

Il est certain que les moyens du gouvernement pour construire une nouvelle université sont limités. C'est pourquoi on a autorisé le secteur privé à investir dans ce domaine pour la première fois.

Le noyau de la première université privée, située près d'Al-Salt (même si on l'appelle «collège universitaire d'Amman») fonctionnera en septembre prochain. Elle est censée absorber deux mille étudiants, en majorité des fils d'émigrés jordanien dans les pays du Golfe. De plus, les droits universitaires sont exorbitants (deux mille dollars par an).

Pour résoudre le problème d'une très grande partie de ces jeunes, les universités du pays doivent trouver des solutions à la fois au nombre insuffisant de places (surtout depuis que beaucoup hésitent à partir à l'étranger), et aux droits universitaires élevés.

Bien sûr, certains s'opposent à cette expansion de l'enseignement. Certains se posent une question légitime d'ailleurs: où tous ces jeunes trouveront-ils du travail quand ils auront fini leurs études? Ne souffrons-nous pas déjà du chômage des diplômés?

A ces questions nous répondons par d'autres questions. Le droit à l'enseignement n'est-il pas inscrit dans la constitution jordanienne? L'Etat n'est-il pas obligé de fournir ce service à ses citoyens? Enfin, n'est-il pas de la responsabilité de l'Etat de planifier ou de réorganiser l'économie du pays de telle façon que cette économie puisse créer des emplois pour tout le monde ou au moins pour une grande partie des citoyens aptes au travail?



Camp étudiant

Les retrouvailles des expatriés

Du 27 juillet au 2 août se tenait à Ajloun un camp d'été destiné aux étudiants jordaniennes à l'étranger. Une bonne occasion pour elles de se retrouver entre elles, de reprendre contact avec le pays et de discuter des problèmes qu'elles peuvent rencontrer à l'étranger, sous le patronage de la reine Nour.



Une occasion exceptionnelle de retrouver des amitiés locales.

Le ministère de la jeunesse a fondé, sur les conseils de sa majesté le roi Hussein, un département des affaires de la jeunesse jordanienne à l'extérieur du pays en 1985.

Le but de ce département est de servir la jeunesse jordanienne qui pour raison d'études ou autre se trouve hors du pays, en l'aidant à maintenir un contact continu avec le pays et à approfondir son appartenance nationale par le biais de différents services.

Ce département reste en contact avec les étudiants en leur envoyant régulièrement un courrier de journaux, revues, brochures touristiques et même des dossiers d'information de toutes sortes sur simple demande, afin que ces jeunes disposent d'une information continue sur les événements politiques, culturels, etc. du pays.

Plusieurs attachés culturels très qualifiés assurent ces contacts. «En cas de besoin, nous envoyons des machines à écrire et toutes sortes d'instruments aux étudiants, explique Ibrahim Ktechat, responsable de ce département. Parfois même, nous leur envoyons de l'argent».

De plus, le département organise des rencontres entre ses jeunes étudiants, à l'intérieur et à l'extérieur du pays. De là est née l'idée du rassemblement national de la jeunesse jordanienne à l'étranger, qui a lieu chaque année à Ajloun. Il se tient dans un camp permanent construit il y a vingt-deux ans sur une surface de 30.000 m², avec 400 tentes, une cuisine, une salle de réunion et tout l'équipement nécessaire

pour le séjour des étudiants. Ce camp reçoit en été tous les rassemblements de la jeunesse jordanienne, qu'elle soit de l'intérieur ou de l'extérieur du pays. Jusqu'à jeudi dernier s'y tenait un camp d'étudiants jordanien à l'étranger. Leur séjour est gratuit et le programme semble les ravir. Elles ont visité les différents sites touristiques de Jordanie, les universités, les différentes régions du royaume; elles ont rencontré des responsables politiques, militaires et autres avec lesquels elles ont pu discuter des problèmes qui les intéressaient pour tenter de trouver des solutions. Elles ont également assisté à des conférences culturelles, politiques, économiques... Un bon moyen pour elles de développer leur culture générale et de pouvoir parler à l'étranger de leur pays et de ses caractéristiques.

Ces camps sont aussi une bonne occasion de se rencontrer entre étudiantes et d'apprendre à mieux se connaître par un contact direct et authentique, au-delà des différences d'intérêt ou de mode de vie puisque ces filles viennent de toutes les régions du royaume et étudient toutes dans des pays différents.

Ainsi se créent des relations d'amitié, de fraternité et de coopération entre ces jeunes universitaires.

Depuis trois ans déjà, le camp reçoit les jeunes étudiantes jordaniennes à l'étranger sous le patronage de la reine Nour qui les rencontre à chaque fois et les aide à résoudre les problèmes qu'elles peuvent rencontrer pendant leurs études à l'étranger. *Ghada al-Hadidi*

F O C U S

Centre culturel soviétique

Un forum pour les Beaux-Arts

Le mot russe «Troïka», traduit par les lexicologues du dictionnaire Hachette, signifie, littéralement, un traineau tiré par trois chevaux et, au sens figuré, un triumvirat politique.

A Amman, troïka, évoque plutôt l'adresse du Centre Culturel Soviétique. Pour ceux qui l'ignorent, il est situé à Jebel Amman à trois rues au sud du troisième cercle, en face de l'hôpital Aqla, rue Al-Khatib.

Elle évoque aussi les trois objectifs du directeur du centre, Evgueni Jarkov: développer les relations culturelles entre la Jordanie et l'Union Soviétique; faire connaître par des échanges la Jordanie au peuple soviétique et -troisième objectif, qui lui est très cher- prendre part au développement d'une conscience des Beaux-Arts en Jordanie.

«C'est un de mes regrets», explique M. Jarkov, que le public jordanien ne profite pas assez des occasions artistiques que nous offrons. Je ne parle pas des représentations de ballets à Jerash ou des tournées de troupes de danse et de chant folkloriques. Ce qui me tient le plus à cœur, ce sont les conférences sur les arts, les récitals poétiques et musicaux, que nous organisons régulièrement au centre. La réponse du public n'est enthousiaste que lorsque ces conférences lient l'art à la politique».

Le forum dont il parle est une occasion donnée aux artistes jordanien de présenter leur œuvre, et au public de pratiquer la critique.

Nidal Madyeh, Jordanien d'origine et directeur administratif du centre, regrette, lui aussi, le manque d'intérêt pour l'art, mais insiste sur sa volonté de ne pas se laisser décourager par cette réaction tiède.

«Il faut estimer le succès de ces rassemblements en termes relatifs, dit-il. Bien sûr, c'est étonnant d'avoir un maximum de 30 personnes dans une salle de 250 places pour des événements d'ordre artistique, mais je dis toujours à M. Jarkov que c'est la qualité des débats qui compte».

Il est beaucoup plus satisfait de l'intérêt que manifestent les jeunes Jordaniens à l'égard de la langue russe. «L'enseignement de la langue est un de nos grands succès», dit M. Jarkov. «Nous avons à peu près 200 nouveaux étudiants chaque année, qui veulent tous faire des études en Union Soviétique».

Autres succès: les départements de jeu d'échecs et de musique classique. Les deux salles sont fréquentées en permanence. Ce qui surprend, c'est que les films présentés par le Centre culturel soviétique (120 fictions et 500 documentaires) ne jouissent pas d'une assistance nombreuse bien qu'ils soient tous sous-titrés, et parfois même doublés, en arabe. «C'est une chose que je m'explique difficilement», s'étonne M. Madyeh.

Ce qui est important, en ce moment, pour M. Jarkov, c'est une compétition artistique dont le premier prix est un voyage en URSS.

«La compétition est organisée par un journal, pour les artistes de moins de quinze ans. Cette année, le thème en est «la beauté du monde». Le concours est international et nous aimerions voir les jeunes Jordaniens y participer.» En fournissant l'adresse de ce concours -Sovetskaya Jeshina - Meyuskaya 6 - Moscou - URSS- il ajoute un souhait bien de chez lui: «Bonne chance les jeunes!» *Sami Kamal*

La leçon d'arabe

Vous souhaitez vous «débrouiller» en arabe? Chaque semaine, vous trouverez ici désormais une petite leçon de langage parlé. Nous commençons aujourd'hui avec la situation la plus courante: les salutations.

DIALOGUE

A: Sabah el-Kher! Bonjour!
B: Sabah en-nour, kif halak? Bonjour, comment ça va?
A: Al-hamdou lillah, wa anta kifak? Bien, et toi ça va?
B: Al-hamdou lillah, ana bikher. Bien, je vais bien.
A: Kif hal al-awlad? Comment vont les enfants?
B: Bikher, choukran! Bien, merci!
A: Illallah! Au revoir!
B: Ma al salama! Au revoir! (que la paix soit avec toi).

NOTE

Kif halak ou Kifak: signifie «comment vas-tu» au masculin. Au féminin, il devient: Kif halék et Kifék. Au pluriel, ils donnent: Kif halakoum.

Les pronoms personnels sujet sont: ana: je; anta: tu (masc.); anti: tu (fem.); Houwa: Il; elle; Nahou: nous; Antou: vous (masc.); Antounna: vous (fem.); Hom: ils; Houmna: elles.

DIALOGUE

A: Marhaba! Salut!
B: Marhaba! Salut!
A: Chou Ismak? Quel est ton nom?
A: Ismi Nabil, wa anta? Je m'appelle Nabil, et toi?
B: Ismi Walid. Je m'appelle Walid.
A: Anta Ourdouini? Tu es Jordanien?
B: La, ana Fransawi. Non, je suis Français.

Vous écrivez?

Si la plume vous démange, que vous écrivez en français... «Le Jourdain» vous ouvre ses deux pages hebdomadaires. Vos idées de sujets, locaux et régionaux, comme vos suggestions y sont les bienvenues.

Jean-Marc Bordes, French section, Jordan Times.
P.O. Box 6718. Tél: 667771.

CINEMA

TELEVISION

«Monsieur Bébé» (1974). Film psychologique du grand metteur en scène Claude Chabrol, avec Denise Gence. Comment une vieille femme de ménage va chérir le souvenir d'un fils.
Centre Culturel Français, lundi 6 août à 20h00.

«It happened one night», de Frank Capra, avec Claudette Colbert et Clark Gable (1934). Cette histoire d'amour improbable entre une héritière en fuite et un reporter play-boy remporta cinq Academy Awards en 1934 et lança la carrière de Frank Capra. Ses films sont caractérisés par un optimisme profond et par la récurrence du thème de l'équité sociale typique de l'époque du New-Deal. Ce film est la première grande comédie à choisir les bas et les motifs comme décor tout en égalant les plus brillantes comédies d'Hollywood.
Centre cinématographique, dimanche 5 et jeudi 9 août, à 19h00 (en anglais).

Ciné-club. Séance quotidienne à 20h00. Projection supplémentaire pour les jeunes, le jeudi à 16h00.

Dimanche: «Rumble Fish» de Francis Ford Coppola, avec Matt Dillon.

Lundi: «Gardens of stone» de Francis Ford Coppola, avec Robert Duval.

Mardi: «God father-1» (Le parrain), de Francis Ford Coppola, avec Marlon Brando.

Mercredi: «God father-2» (Le parrain), de Francis Ford Coppola, avec Marlon Brando et Al Pacino.

Jeudi: «The Conversation», de Francis Ford Coppola, avec Jean Hackman.

Vendredi: «An American wearwolf in London», de John Landis.

Samedi: «Into the night», de John Landis, avec Michèle Pfeiffer, Eileen Papas et Georges Goldenbom.

Films en version originale. Route de l'université, première à droite après l'hôtel Jerusalem puis prendre à gauche. Le ciné-club se trouve à environ 300 m, sur la gauche de la route.

DIMANCHE

17h45 - Denver, le dernier dinosaure. Dessin animé.
18h10 - La Guyane, crise de croissance. Documentaire sur la crise de l'émigration en Guyane.
18h25 - Ca c'est du cinéma.
19h00 - Le Journal.
19h15 - Carnet de notes. Extraits de musique classique.

LUNDI

17h55 - Terre d'espoir, documentaire.
19h00 - Le Journal.
19h15 - Magazine sportif hebdomadaire.

MARDI

F12H9L917h05 - Des chiffres et des lettres. Jeu.
18h30 - La chance aux chansons. Variétés françaises du passé.
19h00 - Le Journal.
19h15 - Aujourd'hui en Jordanie: magazine local réalisé et présenté par Saleh Madi.

MERCREDI

18h00 - L'ami Maupassant. Série retraçant la vie de cet auteur français du XIX^e siècle. Aujourd'hui: «Berthe».
19h00 - Le Journal.
19h15 - Sélection de variétés françaises.

JEUDI

17h45 - «Mollérissimo» (16): dessin animé.
18h10 - Des Chiffres et des Lettres. Jeu.
18h30 - La Chance aux Chansons. Variétés françaises du passé.
19h00 - Le Journal.
19h15 - Sirocco. Le magazine de l'évasion. Aujourd'hui: La Mangrove.

VENREDI

17h30 - «Le retour du Grand blond», deuxième partie. Film comique avec Pierre Richard, Mireille Darc et Jean Rochefort. Des tucurs tentent de se débarrasser du Grand blond à Rio. Ils ignorent que le Grand blond, protégé des balles qui pleuvent, siffient ou ricochent autour de lui par sa gentillesse, sa distraction et sa poésie est intouchable.
19h00 - Le Journal.
19h15 - La révolution de l'intelligence. Aujourd'hui: Le grand canal de Chine.

SAMEDI

17h45 - «Le monde est à vous». Emission de jeu et variétés présentée par Jacques Martin.
19h00 - Le Journal.
19h15 - Documentaire.

JEUX

LE SAVIEZ-VOUS ?

TOUTOUS. La première garderie pour chiens vient d'ouvrir à New-York. «Yuppie Puppy» (Le chien du jeune cadre) n'a rien du chenil: dans un quartier chic près de Central Park, le toutou peut enfin y mener une vie harmonieuse, rencontrer des camarades de son âge, bénéficier d'une surveillance médicale et jouer en attendant le retour de son maître. Il en coûte au maître soucieux de l'équilibre nerveux de son compagnon quelque 20 dollars par jour ou 30 dollars s'il reste la nuit.

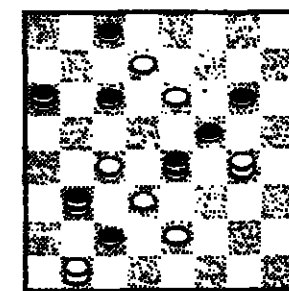
VEAU D'OR. Des archéologues américains ont mis à jour en Israël une statuette du «Veau d'or», similaire à l'idole païenne décrite dans l'Ancien testament. La statuette, faite de bronze, de fils de cuivre et de ce qui semble être de l'argent, est vieille de près de 3.500 ans. Elle est la première de ce genre à avoir été découverte. Le Veau d'or apparaît dans les légendes hébraïques les plus anciennes, mettant en garde contre les idoles impies des Cananéens, premiers habitants de la terre promise des Hébreux.

Solution des mots croisés N. 21:

Horizontalement.
1: passagers; 2: ruelles; ci: 3: notre; 4: foules; Pan: 5: écorce; SS: 6: canette; 7: sites; 8: 8: 14: laves; 9: essiment; 10: russe; este.
Verticalement.
A: professeur; B: au; Oc: C: se; urères; D: slalommeuse; E: al; eues; 16: F: gens; H: GP 800; ut; 18: H: TP; réves; I: écrasent; J: sient; este.

DAMES

Problème N. 22.



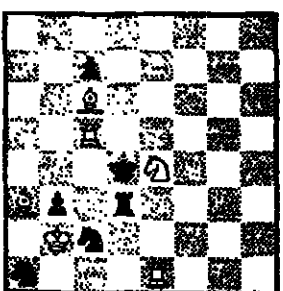
Les blancs gagnent en cinq coups.

Solution du problème N. 21:

B. 16-12; N. 15-11; B. 12-15; N. 20-24; B. 15-19; N. 24-28; B. 19-15; N. 11-20; B. 2-5; N. 1-10; B. 3-7; N. 10-12; B. 8-22.

ECHECS

Problème N. 22.



Mit avec les blancs en deux coups.

Solution du problème N. 21:

D4-a7.

Italy defeats U.S. team in volleyball

SEATTLE (AP) — The Goodwill Games reach their final weekend with three U.S. world champions in reach of gold.

Figure skater Jill Trenary, boxer Eric Griffin and the women's basketball team have looked just short of unbeatable in early action.

But another U.S. team, the men's volleyball squad, won't be going for the championship. Italy ensure that with a 15-5, 13-15, 15-12, 15-8 victory.

Trenary led a 1-2-3 American sweep of the original programme Thursday night. That's worth one-third of the total score and the other two-thirds shouldn't be much of a problem for the three-time U.S. champion.

The Soviets had no trouble in Paris, an event they've dominated for decades. Ekaterina Gordeeva and Sergei Grinkov, the 1988 Olympic gold medalists and current world champions, survived her flubbed triple toe loop to hold off Artur Dmitriyev and Natalia Mishkutenok. Elena Bechke and Denis Petrov took the bronze.

Volleyball

The United States, winner of the 1984 and '88 Olympic titles and the dominant country in the sport for more than five years, did not have the power or experience to match Italy.

The Italians clinched the semifinal match by jumping to a 13-1 lead in the final game with 10 straight points. The United States came back with seven of the next

eight points before a block fell outside the court, ending the match.

The Soviets staged a sensational comeback to beat World Cup champion Cuba in the semifinals 12-15, 8-15, 15-10, 15-12, 15-10.

In their biggest victory of the season, the young Soviets rallied behind the kills of reserve Alexander Shadchin.

Figure skating

Browning was especially pleased that he could come from behind so early in the season, or actually before the season usually begins.

"It always feels good to win, especially when it's the first competition of the year," Browning said. "It's a great way to start."

Eldredge had a disastrous original programme, then rallied with a solid long programme.

"After yesterday's disappointment, falling on the triple axel," he said, "coming out and making the triple axel-double toe was a big booster for me."

Trenary is debating whether to remain an amateur or go into a professional show. That decision is close at hand.

"I'm going home to Minnesota after these competitions to take it easy and decide. I can't just sit around for a couple of months deciding. I can't just float through life. It's difficult for athletes to think this is their last amateur competition."

Boxing

Griffin's boxing came together

in 1989, when he was unbeaten and took the 106-pound (48-kilogramme) world crown with a decision over Rogelio Marcelo of Cuba. He has kept winning this year and a 5-0 decision over Nshan Munchyan of the Soviet Union Thursday put him in the finals against another Soviet, Anatoli Filipov.

Basketball

The American women's basketball squad has won the last two world championships, the 1986 Goodwill Games and, the crowning achievement, the 1988 Olympics. They have not lost in 39 games since beating the Soviets for the '86 Goodwill title.

Diving

The men's one-metre springboard was won by Soviet Sergei Lomonoski, the first non-Chinese gold medalist in diving. His consistent performance enabled Lomonoski to move away from the field and finish with 597.00 points.

"As the dives went on, I gained confidence and dived better," Lomonoski said. "I was better prepared for the one-metre."

Tan Liangde of China, who won the 3-metre springboard, took the silver. Mark Bradshaw of Columbus, Ohio, took his second bronze of these games.

Mark Lenzi of Fredericksburg, Virginia, had a disastrous 10th dive, a 1½ somersault with 2½ twists, falling from second to fourth.

Sabatini stops Capriati to join Graf in semifinals

MONTREAL (R) — The final set lead changed three times before second seed Gabriela Sabatini swept the last four games for a 3-6, 6-1, 6-4 victory over sixth seed Jennifer Capriati to reach the semifinals of the \$500,000 Players Challenge tennis championships Friday.

Top seed Steffi Graf needed just 53 minutes to do away with fifth-seeded Soviet Natalia Zvereva 6-0, 6-4.

"I never felt that I could lose," said the West German world number one, who will meet seventh-seeded Frenchwoman Nathalie Tauziat in the semifinals.

Tauziat upset fourth seed Manuela Maleeva of Switzerland 6-3, 6-2 to take her place in the final four.

Maleeva's younger sister Katerina, seeded third, reached the semifinals with a 6-7, 6-2, 6-4 win over unseeded Japanese amateur Naoko Sawamatsu.

But the most exciting match of the tournament was the battle between Capriati and Sabatini.

Capriati, the 14-year-old Florida prodigy who has been making headlines worldwide since her March professional debut, dazzled the near capacity crowd of 9,500 with the maturity of her shot-making and her courageous play.

She won the first set by hitting flat, hard and deep to keep the 20-year-old Argentine on the run and take the sting from Sabatini's top-spin shots.

But Capriati began rushing in the second set which led to a string of errors that enabled Sabatini to seize momentum and level the match.

Capriati was broken in the third game of the deciding set to fall behind but rebounded immediately, smacking a forehand winner to level the set at 2-2.

She saved two break points in the fifth game and won it with a dazzling retrieval of a Sabatini drop shot that should have been a winner and went up 4-2 when the Argentine followed a double fault with two glaring backhand errors.

But Capriati let the match slip away when she blew a game point for 5-2 with a volley error and Sabatini again took charge.

The second seed began returning aggressively and charged the net at every chance as she ran off the final four games.

"The third set was very close. It could have been for her too," Sabatini said.

"On the court she doesn't look like she's that young. She thinks very well how to play. But I was thinking she's gonna have to beat me. I'm not gonna lose the match," she added.

Edberg advances in L.A. ATP tennis tournament

LOS ANGELES (R) — Top seed Stefan Edberg continued to get his hard court game in shape as he swept to a 6-4, 6-4 quarterfinal win over American Jeff Tarango in the \$250,000 Los Angeles ATP tennis tournament Friday.

In the semifinals the Wimbledon champion will face third-seeded American Pete Sampras, who defeated promising Australian Jason Stoltenberg 6-3, 6-4.

Speedy fourth-seeded American Michael Chang also reached the semifinals with a 6-1, 7-5 victory over compatriot Dan Goldie, who tried valiantly to send the match to a third set.

Chang finally broke Goldie in the 11th game for 6-5 after eight deuces and served out the match to set up a semifinal against seventh-seeded Gary Muller of South Africa, who earlier ousted American Brian Garraway 6-3, 6-4.

Edberg, playing his first tournament since winning his second Wimbledon singles title, has not surrendered a set in three matches here, though he has not approached top form.

"It wasn't my best match of the week," Edberg said. "I haven't been playing that well or that bad, but I'm in the semifinals where I'm supposed to be."

Edberg, ranked second in the world, lost his serve once in each set — both times on double-faults — and appeared to struggle

with his usually strong first serve. But the Swede had no difficulty attacking 124th-ranked Tarango's serve by chipping his backhand approach shots deep and closing out points with skilful volleys that resulted in four breaks of the American's serve.

In other tennis games world number three Boris Becker, playing his first tournament since he lost the Wimbledon final last month, was whistled off court after being beaten by Czechoslovak Karel Novacek in the Austrian Open quarter-finals Friday.

The top-seeded West German looked half-hearted as he went out 6-3, 6-3, to Novacek, ranked 31st in the world, in just 69 minutes to the whistles of disappointed fans.

"This was my first tournament after Wimbledon," said Becker, three-times champion at Wimbledon but a loser to Swede Stefan Edberg in the final at London's All-England Club nearly four weeks ago.

"I haven't played for three weeks but Novacek was played every week and played very well," added Becker, 22, who took the U.S. Open title for the first time last year.

Novacek, seeded seventh in the \$375,000 clay court tournament, was delighted with his victory.

"That was the best tennis I have played in my life," the 25-year-old Czechoslovak said.

Rookie Gibson takes second round lead at Boston Five

DANVERS, Massachusetts (AP) — Ellie Gibson, who has made only \$1,264 in her first 10 months as a golf pro, shot a 4-under-par 68 Friday to take a one-stroke lead over Dale Eggleston after 36 holes of the Boston Five classic.

Gibson, who had made the cut in only one of seven previous tournaments this year, was at 6-under 138 after two rounds over the 6,008-yard (5,047-metre) Tara Ferncroft country club course.

Eggleston, the 1980 Boston Five

champion, was one shot ahead of 1982 tournament winner Sandra Palmer.

"This is the best I have played all year," Gibson said. "I am a non-exempt player so I don't get into every tournament. But I've played five of the last seven weeks so I'm getting my competitiveness back."

Ok-He Kn of Korea, whose opening-day 64 set a tournament and gave her a five-shot lead, blew to a 77 Friday and was three shots off the pace. Her closest first-round pursuers also fell

Silveira maintains golf lead

MEMPHIS, Tennessee (AP) — Larry Silveira overcame two shots into water hazards to shoot an even-par 71 Friday and hold a one-shot lead midway through the St. Jude classic golf tournament.

Silveira, who set a course record with a 9-under-par 62 for a three-shot lead Thursday, completed two rounds over the 7,006-yard (6,305-metre) TPC southwind course at 133, one shot ahead of Buddy Gardner and Loren Roberts. Gardner shot 69 and Roberts 68.

Silveira, a former university of Arizona All-American, balanced four birdies against two bogeys and a double bogey on a day when play was interrupted by lightning and rain. He found the water on no. 4, taking a bogey, and on no. 11, where he had the double bogey.

"I was out there grinding away," Silveira said. "I putted well, but I didn't hit my iron shots close enough. I had a lot of 20-30 footers."

The second-year PGA tour player, whose best finish is a 10th in the Deposit Guaranty classic this year, was at even par on the par-3 14th. He got that stroke back when he birdied the 18th from 20 feet (6 metres).

"You never know when you're going to play good," Silveira said. "It's day-by-day out here, as you can see with a nine-shot difference today."

Gardner managed to offset a bogey-4 at the 186-yard (167-metre) fourth hole with three birdies.

Gardner started his round on the back nine and made the turn at 8-under before letting several birdie opportunities slip away following a 1-hour, 20-minute rain delay. He had six birdie putts within 15 feet (4.6 metres) that didn't fall.

"After the delay, I was very, very stiff and my mind gets to wandering after I've been out there a long time," he said.

Roberts, competing at Memphis after a three-week layoff, got his game together after a double bogey on the 146-yard (131-metre) 11th hole, his second of the day.

Roberts got the two strokes back with birdies at the 15th and 18th holes, a pair of par-4s, to make the turn at par-35.

Two strokes back at 7-under 135 are Rick Fehr, Peter Persous, Nick Price and Mark Lye.

The cut came at even par, with 77 players qualifying for weekend play.

Dillard Pruitt, whose 144 total failed to make the cut, made a hole-in-one at the 186-yard fourth hole, using a 1-iron.

Gardner rolls back to form

DONINGTON PARK, England (R) — Former world champion Wayne Gardner, whose 500 cc title hopes were shattered by injury earlier in the season, rolled back to form Saturday with the fastest practice time for Sunday's British motorcycle grand prix.

The Australian, who fractured his foot in nine places in practice for the West German grand prix in May, rode his works Honda to pole position in a time well inside the official lap record.

After complaining that he was still suffering from a cold brought on by air conditioning while racing in Japan last week, the 1987 champion sped round in one minute 33.415 seconds at an average 155.037 KPH just three minutes before the end of the last practice session.

Suzuki rider Kevin Schwantz, who won at Donington Park last year and knows he has to do it again at his favourite circuit to keep alive his title hopes, was second fastest with a time of 1:33.543 after leading from the first practice session Friday.

The exuberant Texan, who currently lags overall leader and compatriot Wayne Rainey by 30 championship points with five races to go, had set a blistering pace over the two days and seemed confidently on course for his second consecutive pole.

All his times were inside the official lap record of 1:34.51, set by American four-time world champion Eddie Lawson at last

year's grand prix.

Rainey, who was second after Friday's practice and has only once finished outside the top two in this season's races, was unable to improve his time in Saturday's sweltering heat and had to settle for third fastest.

His Yamaha team mate Lawson, who has only recently returned from injury, was fourth fastest.

Spanish Sito Pons, who has not raced since he crashed in the Yugoslav 500 cc grand prix in June, took part in all four practice sessions but decided not to ride on Sunday after qualifying in 14th place.

"I do not want to make a

mistake that I would regret later by crashing and further delaying my recovery," the popular Hondurider said. He has also decided to miss the Swedish grand prix on Aug. 12.

His compatriot Carlos Cardus, a close second in the 250 cc title race, fell in morning practice but succeeded in beating the official lap record time on his Honda in the afternoon session to finish second fastest.

Yamaha rider John Kocinski of the United States, the overall leader by seven points, will start in pole position.

Venezuela's Carlos Lavado broke his arm when he fell off his Aprilia.

Barr completes comeback with backstroke victory

AUSTIN, Texas (R) — Olympic silver medalist Beth Barr, who nearly lost her right arm in a horseback riding accident last year, completed a miraculous comeback with a victory in the 200-metre backstroke at the U.S. swimming championships Friday.

Barr, 18, who swam backstroke 4x100 metre medley relay team at the 1988 Seoul Olympics, won in two minutes 13.16 seconds — the sixth fastest time in the world this year.

Janie Wagstaff was second in 2:13.59 and an exhausted Janet Evans, who won three freestyle events here this week, was third in 2:13.66.

"I'm back," declared Barr as she tried to hold back tears of joy after winning a national title.

"The good side was always saying 'Beth, you can come back,' but the bad said would say, 'no way, give it up.' I guess the good side beat the bad side."

"I am still in shock," added

Barr, who qualified for the world championships in Perth, Australia in January. "I think I'm going to wake up this morning and go 'oh my God, I did it.' Tonight was a dream."

World record holder David Wharton won the 200-metre individual medley in 2:01.33, but American record holder Leigh Ann Fetter was beaten to the touch in the women's 50-metre freestyle.

Jenny Thompson won the 50 metres in 25.90 seconds, edging Fetter by just 2/100ths of a second.

In another final, Keith Frostad surprised himself by winning the 1500-metre freestyle in a career best 15:14.52 after only six weeks of training and many sleepless nights.

"I couldn't sleep for three weeks and I was really concerned," Frostad said. "I never had a good race in my college career and thought swimming was over for me."

Giradelli launches comeback bid in Alpine skiing tomorrow

MOUNT HUTT, New Zealand (R) — The Alpine skiing World Cup season opens Monday at New Zealand's Mount Hutt, with veteran Marc Giradelli battling to get back to the top after a season plagued by injury.

Giradelli, who skis for Luxembourg, will be helped by the absence of four times World Cup champion Pirmin Zurbriggen of Switzerland, who retired last March.

But 27-year-old Giradelli faces tough competition in the two slaloms and two giant slaloms from Austrian Gunter Mader, Norway's Ole Kristian Furuseth and Italian star Alberto Tomba.

Austrian-born Giradelli, a three-times World Cup winner, says his comeback will be long and difficult because of a lack of competitive skiing in the past six months.

Last season started disastrously in Italy with a serious injury in a super-G at Sestriere. Later he dropped out of two slaloms in Yugoslavia and gave up for the rest of the season.

Giradelli, the sole racer for Luxembourg, said he would be

happy just to regain his confidence with a top 10 placing.

"As I train alone I need to finish the first race to really know where I stand in comparison to my rivals," he said.

But he remains favourite for the 1990-91 World Cup season, which ends next March at Waterville Valley, New Hampshire, as the only man who can take top three finishes in all four Alpine skiing disciplines.

Furuseth, two times winner of the giant slalom World Cup, won an international race two years ago at Mount Hutt, which overlooks the south island's Canterbury plain.

He also took two second places in another southern hemisphere event last year, Australia's Thredbo.

Italy's colourful Tomba is aiming to regain the total dominance he showed in 1987-88 after two seasons when he won only four races. He was trained harder than ever this year, and has lost six kilograms.

Austria's Mader, a consistent giant-slalomist last season, also

performed well at Thredbo and hopes to improve his downhill skiing this season to challenge for the overall World Cup.

With racing two days away, weather problems which put Mount Hutt in doubt last month returned to plague the organisers. High winds buffeted the slopes, which lie at about 2,000 metres, closing the only access road for two hours Saturday.

Organisers will decide whether the order of the races, to be held on consecutive days, will be reshuffled with the slaloms on Monday and Tuesday and the giant slaloms on Wednesday and Thursday, instead of vice versa.

Last month the International Ski Federation cancelled the event because of a lack of snow. But after fresh snowfalls the event was reinstated and postponed a week.

Ironically the weather has only just turned bad. "The race could have been organised in perfect conditions at the original dates," said Mount Hutt spokesman Peter Hutchinson. "Too bad the snow fell so late."

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMAR HIRSCH
©1990 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

CHOOSE THE HIDDEN FINESSE

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♠ Q J

♥ 8 5 4 2

♦ 7 6 3

♣ Q J 3 4

SOUTH

♠ A K

♥ A K Q

♦ A 8 5 4 2

♣ A 9 3

The bidding:

South West North East

2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

3 NT Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ten of ♠

Bridge is a game of never-ending wonders. When we first saw this situation it cropped up in a slightly different guise some years ago. South's sequence showed a balanced hand of 25-27 points. With all primes and a five-card suit South's hand was worth considerably more than its nominal count. But for the duplication of spade shortness the contract would have

offered no challenge.

Declarer was unlucky to receive a spade lead. On any other lead declarer would have been able to concede two diamond tricks to the enemy and coast home in comfort. But now the defenders were a tempo ahead and, with only seven fast tricks, declarer had to develop two more tricks while surrendering the lead no more than once.

The first suit to tackle was hearts. If the suit broke evenly a long card would set up in dummy and an entry to the table could be forced in clubs. Unfortunately, East discarded a spade on the third heart, killing that hope.

South found an intriguing way to develop two extra tricks in the club suit. He led a low club and, when West followed with the five, declarer finessed the board's eight of East took that trick with the king, declarer would have no problem collecting three club tricks, so the defender ducked.

To no avail. Declarer used that extra entry to run the queen of clubs. When that held South had three club tricks in the bank, together with the contract.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY AUGUST 5, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A good day for analysing everything that can be of helpfulness to you in having a more down to earth — mundane attitude. Add a touch of spice and idealism for inspiration.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Look to friends who have some very interesting accomplishments as the persons from whom you can get ideas for best, easiest attaining your personal wishes.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Driving some desirable bargains in the outside world would make it possible for you to have more respect, consideration from your associates.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You now have the inspiration to gain the most expansive aspirations to which wish to soar so go after them with courage, confidence and conviction.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Whatever you do of a constructive nature now largely depends upon those persons you know who are expert in the field of interest as you are.

LEO (July 22 to August 21) Discussing your daily outlets with one of unusual experience and with the same goals as yourself can bring you answers for which you have been searching for.

VIRGO (August 22 to September 22) Consider well the manner in which you are doing your project

and if it does not suit you add some modern methods; then you can make more money, better.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Yield to your desire for more pleasure and recreational outlets now and you will find you can make the dates and arrangements to do so easily.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Much of the energy that is yours today can be intelligently utilised to do things that will make your own residence as and your family wishes.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) You now can confide in those persons who are able to aid you in gaining intimate aims and join them in some mutually acceptable hobbies.

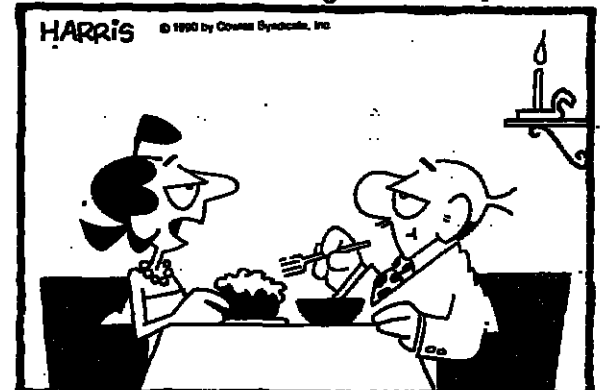
CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 20) Your basic urge these days is to make money and get your financial structure more secure and now contact bigwigs to get their desirable support.

AQUARIUS (January 21 to February 19) You are determined these days to get yourself in a more aggressive or unique position and you can do this today by being openminded to some changes.

PISCES (February 20 to March 20) Some very interesting behind the scenes activities can now be put in motion by you that will be of helpfulness in improving relations with mate.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"Trust me, it's in the Bible — Thou shalt not covet thy wife's dessert!"

JUMBLE.

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles. Use each letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

INJOG

ARICH

TOMELE

C

U.S. gasoline prices rise sharply

HOUSTON (R)—Iraq's takeover of Kuwait hit Americans in the pocketbook as gasoline prices skyrocketed up to 14 cents a gallon at service stations around the country.

The increase was so sudden and sharp that the American Automobile Association (AAA) issued a plea for restraint on price increases and urged motorists not to begin panic buying.

"If everyone acts rationally, the United States should be able to get through this situation without serious consequences to motorists or the economy," said J. Kay Aldous, AAA senior vice president.

Consumer advocates blamed the price increases on oil industry avarice.

"They are not going by the amount of oil available. They are raising prices because they see prices going up in the spot mar-

ket," said Ed Rothchild, spokesman for the Citizens-Labor Energy Coalition. "They are cashing in on an opportunity, but this is nothing new."

"I don't know that we would use the word 'gouging,' but it's clear the service stations and refiners are nervous about where oil prices are headed," said AAA spokesman Geoff Sundstrom.

AAA said its nationwide membership was reporting retail price increases of four to 14 cents a gallon. The White House said that it believed prices would rise only as much as eight cents.

Analysts had predicted that pump prices would rise gradually as oil companies sought to curb consumer anger and reduction in demand.

But the companies attributed the rapid escalation of price increases to self-protection and the need to meet the additional cost

of rising oil prices.

"It's a matter of inventory control. If we stay lower than others, then we'll get a run on our product and not be able to meet our contract obligations," said Conoco spokesman Carlton Adams. Conoco raised its wholesale prices as much as eight cents a gallon for some products, he said.

Adams said prices are largely pegged to oil spot market prices, which have shot up since Iraq's army marched into Kuwait.

"We are looking at prices that are truly reflective of the spot market, which is basically replacement cost these days," he said.

According to AAA, Marathon Oil Co. raised its wholesale prices as much as eight cents, while Mobil Oil Co. settled for only 3.5 cents. Other companies, AAA said, would not disclose their price increase plans.

Retail price changes typically match wholesale price changes. Glenn Nilsson, executive director of the Lone Star Service Station Association, said he was shocked by the speed of the price increases.

"I've never seen anything move this rapidly," he told Reuters.

The U.S. has plenty of gasoline on hand, but if the fighting spreads to other Middle East countries, prices will soar and motorists will find themselves waiting in long lines to buy gasoline, said Texas Railroad Commission Chairman Kent Hance.

"If the fighters carry over into Saudi Arabia or any other countries of the Middle East, then we could see oil prices go so high that gasoline prices could go up 40 or 50 cents and you would have extremely long gasoline lines," Hance said.

Economic concerns make Japan wary about sanctions against Iraq

TOKYO (R)—Japan's extensive trade with Iraq is making Tokyo cautious about sanctions against Iraq's takeover of Kuwait, a foreign ministry official said Saturday.

"Japan has very large economic relations with Iraq, so it is only natural that we have to take very careful examination (of effective measures)," Yukio Okamoto, director of the ministry's First North America Division, told reporters.

Japanese trade houses and engineering companies raced with South Korean and European firms to open or expand business in Iran and Iraq after the war between them ended in 1988.

Okamoto said Japan is the largest creditor of Iraq, whose debts are estimated by trade sources at around \$70 billion, and the second largest buyer of Iraqi oil after the United States.

Friday, 49 U.S. senators urged Japan to join the United States and other Western nations in

economic sanctions, and President George Bush called Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu Saturday to make a similar plea.

"As one of Iraq's and Kuwait's largest trading partners, Japan's actions in this crisis can provide great assistance in securing Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and restoration of Kuwaiti independence and sovereignty," the senators said in a letter to Kaifu.

Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) officials explained that the main reason for Japan's caution was concern about oil supply security and Iraqi debt repayment.

MITI was against a total oil import ban because that would disrupt international oil markets and delay Iraqi repayment of debts owed to the Japanese government and trade houses, a MITI official said Friday.

Part of the oil Japan buys from Iraq is under barter trade to repay debts. Private Japanese

firms are still exposed to Iraqi debt estimated by trade sources at around 600 billion yen (\$4 billion).

Japan's exports to Iraq totaled \$490 million and imports from Iraq to Japan \$1.2 billion in 1989, MITI figures show.

Japan, the world's second largest oil importer after the United States, purchased 217,000 barrels per day (b/d) from Iraq and 167,000 b/d from Kuwait in 1989.

Asked if Japan would make a final decision on its measures against Baghdad only after the United Nations Security Council passed a resolution, the foreign ministry's Okamoto said:

"Our process of examination is conducted in parallel with the U.N. Security Council."

Earlier in the day, Kaifu told Bush that Japan would sincerely comply with sanction measures agreed by the Security Council, Okamoto said.

British oil workers call national strike

LONDON (R)—Maintenance workers on British offshore oil and gas installations in the North Sea called a national strike from Sunday to support sacked colleagues.

The strike comes at a crucial time for the nervous world oil market, where prices have been driven up by Iraq's takeover of oil-rich Kuwait.

Ronnie McDonald, chairman of a union body representing the British oilmen, said: "We are calling a national offshore strike from 7 a.m. Sunday in support of members who have been locked out on North Sea platforms."

He said the strike was called to support 1,000 men who had been locked out or sacked on Shell and British Petroleum (B.P.) oil installations.

McDonald predicted the strike call would be heeded by 10,000 North Sea maintenance men.

A 24-hour stoppage over safety and pay by about 5,000 contract maintenance workers from Thursday to Friday morning turned into a sit-in by around 1,000 workers on Shell and B.P. installations, which McDonald said was continuing.

Shell had earlier warned the men that if they continued their sit-in beyond midday Saturday they would have "effectively dismissed themselves."

The dispute involves maintenance workers working for subcontractors but not production staff employed by the oil companies. Oil production has not so far been affected.

But if maintenance work is delayed it will inevitably cut into production levels in future.

Gulf conflict may have serious repercussions on world economies

LONDON (AP)—Iraq's takeover of Kuwait may have serious repercussions on the world's economies, experts say.

If the resulting jump in oil prices is sustained, inflation and interest rate could rise, economic growth might slow and the United States might even be pushed into recession, economists said Friday.

But the industrial world is far less vulnerable to oil shocks than it was in the 1970s, they stressed. "The situation will be different. Even in the worst-case scenario, it is unlikely that oil prices will jump on a sustained basis as they did then," said Michael Hughes, an economist at the London investment firm Barclays de Zoete Wedd.

However, Hughes added: "The impact on the world economy could still be quite significant."

At the very least, the developments will bring unwelcome uncertainty to the global economic outlook.

Iraq's takeover of Kuwait Thursday sent the spot price of North Sea Brent blend, the most widely traded international crude, to above \$24 a barrel by late Friday in London.

That was some 50 per cent

higher than the price of nearly \$16 a barrel on July 12, when Iraqi President Saddam Hussein began threatening Kuwait.

Geoff Pyne, an oil analyst with UBS Phillips and Drew, said under the best-case scenario, based on current supplies, oil prices should settle at \$21 to \$22 a barrel.

If supplies are seriously disrupted, prices could reach \$30 a barrel, he said, levels crude reached in the mid-1980s before a sustained price drop pummeled oil producers.

The most vulnerable country is Japan, which imports 99 per cent of its oil, economists say.

The Arab oil embargo after the 1973 Arab-Israeli war set back Japan's economic growth with skyrocketing oil prices, inflation and cutbacks in industrial production.

If oil prices rise to at least \$25 a barrel and maintain that level through next year, Japan's economic growth could fall to 3.6 per cent instead of the expected 3.9 per cent next year, and its annual inflation could rise to 2.8 per cent instead of 2.1 per cent, said Stephen King, international economist at the London investment firm James Capel and Co.

In the United States — where the economy already has shown signs of slipping into a recession — economic growth could be 1.5 per cent next year instead of the forecast two per cent, King said. Inflation could be 5.2 per cent instead of 4.75 per cent.

"In the United States you can wonder whether an oil shock, if there is to be an oil shock, is the straw that breaks the camel back," King said. "It does appear the chances of recession are increasing anyway."

Germany should still have growth of four per cent and inflation of 3.5 per cent next year, King said. But interest rates could rise in Germany, as well as in Japan, he said.

"They have plenty of reasons already to tighten policy and the oil price could be an extra reason," King said.

The United States will be torn between wanting to lower interest rates to spur growth and wanting to raise them to counter the inflationary pressures of higher oil prices, he said.

The temptation will be to leave interest rates unchanged, which could slow growth enough to tip the United States into recession, he said.

Joe Roseman, a British economist at UBS Phillips and Drew, said a sustained, \$25 a barrel oil price could mean British economic growth of 1.7 per cent instead of 1.9 per cent next year and inflation of 6.5 per cent instead of 5.5 per cent.

Also threatened are developing economies and Eastern European countries which are attempting to turn themselves into market economies.

But oil prices haven't risen proportionally anywhere near as much as in the 1970s oil shocks, King said.

In the 1979 oil price shock prompted by the Iranian revolution, oil prices nearly tripled to an annual average of nearly \$37 a barrel from \$13, said Pyne.

In the 1973 price rise, blamed on the Arab oil embargo, prices almost quadrupled from \$2.80 a barrel to \$10.40, he said.

Currently there is a world oil glut, and a slowdown in economic growth in the past two years has eased demand for oil, the experts said.

Furthermore, the 1970s energy crises prompted further development of alternate sources of oil and other forms of energy and conservation methods, they said.

Morocco shakes up major foreign exchange flagships

RABAT (R)—Morocco's tourism industry, said by critics to be sloppy, expensive and too heavy, is being shaken up by King Hassan under a plan to boost his country's faltering foreign exchange flagships.

Remittances from workers abroad and tourism tipped Morocco's traditional foreign currency mainstay, the phosphates industry, into third place last year.

Now all three are being overhauled to try to significantly increase the \$3.3 billion in foreign exchange they brought to Morocco in 1989.

Army Colonel Abdellah Kadiri, 53, has replaced tourism minister Moussa Saadi who was dismissed without explanation or thanks.

Saadi's departure had been demanded by opposition parties and tourist trade operators who complained numerous abuses had crept into Moroccan tourism, scaring off big-spending foreign visitors.

The number of visitors rose 27 per cent last year to 2.5 million but over a million were from North Africa who spend relatively little and the numbers of "up-

market" big spenders from Europe fell by four to 11 per cent.

European tour operators blamed the decline on overbooking, sloppy service, harassment by bogus guides and street vendors, expensive food and taxis and a burgeoning bureaucracy.

Kadiri is expected to embark on a major drive to improve Moroccan tourism in an attempt to lure back Western visitors.

In another move to draw more foreign dollars to offset Morocco's \$20 billion foreign debt, the king has created a new cabinet post for a minister of emigrant workers.

But the most spectacular change domestically was the demise of Mohammed Karim Lamrani, a 71-year-old former prime minister who was director-general of the state-owned phosphate company for more than 20 years. He was long seen as the second most-important man in Morocco after the king.

The king has accepted Lamrani's resignation, giving no reason. But Lamrani was known to be in poor health. The king named him as economic adviser at the palace.

The Office Cherifien des Phosphates (OCP) has been the main-

stay of the economy and Morocco's leading export earner for decades.

But last year OCP exports of \$965 million slipped behind workers' remittances of \$1.33 billion and the troubled tourist industry's billion dollars.

The slump in OCP sales coincided with the loss of a \$400 million contract for phosphoric acid in a dispute with India. The dispute was settled in December and sales were resumed this year.

The loss of the contract and higher crude oil prices contributed to a sudden worsening of the trade deficit which more than doubled to over \$2 billion. Morocco has a foreign debt of \$20 billion.

The king named Mohammed Fethah, 50, a mining engineer who spent most of his career in the phosphate industry before becoming minister of energy and mines in 1985 as the new head of the OCP.

The newly-appointed minister of emigrant workers is Rafiq Haddaoui, 50, former ambassador in Moscow and director of cooperation at the foreign ministry.

Soviets plan no increase in oil sales

MOSCOW (R)—Official sources have said Moscow would not exploit Iraq's takeover of Kuwait to boost exports by the troubled Soviet oil industry.

"We do not see the present situation from a position of commercial benefit," Moskovskaya Pravda Saturday quoted an official at the export agency Soyuzneftexport as saying.

"Sales of Soviet oil on the world market will not be increased from planned levels. In this sense, we support the position of OPEC member countries."

Last Thursday's takeover pushed up oil prices on world markets by about 15 per cent, with the benchmark North Sea Brent blend touching a four-year high of \$24.

Domestic debt problems hurt profits at Britain's big banks

LONDON (R)—Britain's commercial banks, barely free of the burden of Third World debt after a costly provision programme, have been caught out again by risky loans — this time at home.

Britain's leading clearing banks, among the most generous lenders to the Third World in the 1970s and 80s, were badly burned by loan arrears there and had to set aside more than \$4 billion (\$7.33 billion) last year to protect themselves from defaults.

But just as earnings looked to be heading up again, the banks have run into domestic debt problems that are forcing them to eat further into profits.

The four top banks in terms of assets all reported big provisions for bad debts in their latest half-yearly results. Barclays Bank PLC, the biggest and the last of the four to release its results, announced the largest provision of all on Friday of \$447 million (\$815 million).

The bulk of the charges were for bad and doubtful debts in Britain, where a climb in bank base rates from 7.5 to 15 per cent between June 1988 and last October has led to a string of loan defaults among businesses and home owners.

All four banks managed to turn in a profit, with Midland Bank PLC creeping back into the black after a loss last year. But banking analysts said the debt provisions were larger and profits generally worse than the industry expected.

Barclays managed only a two per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £602 million (\$1.10 billion) from £590 million (\$1.08 billion) previously.

National Westminster Bank PLC, the second biggest in terms of assets, made £431 million (\$800 million) after setting aside £425 million (\$789.4 million) for risky debt.

Lloyds Bank PLC, the smallest of the big four, made £408 million

(\$757.8 million) after a £303 million (\$562.8 million) loan risk provision.

Midland, which lost over £500 million (\$930 million) in the first half-year 1989 and was expected to make £100 million (\$185.7 million) this time, managed only £36 million (\$67 million) in pre-tax profits.

In the 1980s, when Britain's economy was resurgent and the future looked good, companies and consumers had few qualms about taking on big bank loans, especially as credit was cheap.

Financial deregulation, which opened the market for loans and increased competition, also contributed to a credit boom for which the country is now paying the price.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Saturday, August 4, 1990			
Central Bank official rates			
	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	659.0	661.0	123.8 124.5
Pound Sterling	1225.4	1232.8	441.5 444.1
Deutsche mark	414.9	417.4	368.3 370.5
Swiss franc	488.9	491.8	113.0 113.7
French franc			56.7 57.0
Japanese yen (for 100)			202.1 203.3

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Tamil Tigers massacre 150 Muslims, injure 100

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — Tamil militants firing machine guns rampaged through two mosques in eastern Sri Lanka, killing 150 men kneeling in prayer, military officials said Saturday.

Residents reached by telephone in the provincial capital of Batticaloa said they feared 175 Muslims were massacred during Friday evening prayers in the nearby village of Kathankudi. They put the number of wounded at 90 to 100.

Military officials blamed the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, who broke a 13-month cease-fire on June 11 to resume their war for independence in the Tamil-dominated north and the east.

"This is a brutal massacre of innocent civilians by the Tiger terrorists who do not hesitate to enter mosques and kill civilians," said Mohammad Ashroff of the opposition Sri Lanka Muslim Congress Party.

The Tamil Tigers did not immediately respond.

Military officials, who cannot be identified under briefing rules, said the rebels wore fez caps and civilian clothes to avoid arousing

suspicion. About 30 rebels divided themselves into two groups to launch the almost simultaneous attacks on the Meera Juma and Hussein Thaik mosques, said the officials. The gunmen switched off the lights before opening fire, they said.

The rebels escaped on boats from the Batticaloa lagoon, evading helicopter gunfire, they said. First reports said 93 Muslims were killed, but more died later of wounds, the officials said. The toll could be higher since some bodies were taken away by relatives.

All the victims were men, they said. This was the second Tiger attack on mosques in the area in one week. In a similar attack last Sunday, the militants killed 10 worshippers in Samanthurai, 40 kilometres east of Batticaloa.

On July 24, Tamil rebels killed four Muslims at another mosque in Batticaloa district.

Insurgents stopped three buses near the eastern town of Kalmunai on July 13 and killed at least 35 Muslim passengers. Muslim

politicians put the toll at 150, but the claim has not been confirmed. Muslims, who make up about 7 per cent of Sri Lanka's 16 million people, often have been victims of the 7-year-old war between Tamil rebels and the Sinhalese-dominated government.

The rebels want an independent homeland in the northern and eastern districts for the minority Tamils, who are mostly Hindus. Tamils make up 18 per cent of the population and the predominantly Buddhist Sinhalese account for 75 per cent.

Military officials say the rebels are killing Muslims and burning their homes and shops because they support the government in the civil war.

However, Muslim leaders say the Muslims are being killed because they are neutral. More than 3,000 combatants have been killed in the latest round of civil war.

The separatists say the Sinhalese discriminate against the Tamils in jobs, education and the use of Sinhala language. Besides the government, the Sinhalese also dominate the police and the military.

Taylor: Liberians will resist intervention

HARBEL, Liberia (R) — Rebel leader Charles Taylor says he will resist any foreign military intervention in Liberia's civil war, after Nigeria announced it was preparing to send in troops.

"If Nigerian forces are here we will fight them," Taylor told reporters on Friday at his headquarters in Harbel, about 40 miles from the capital Monrovia. He said he could count on the support of 300,000 to 350,000 Liberians.

"Anyone who invades this country is going to have to kill everyone," he said.

Nigeria said earlier on Friday it was preparing to send troops to protect its citizens in Liberia and was willing to participate in a possible peace-keeping force backed by the Organisation of African Unity (OAU).

Taylor, who leads the main rebel National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) fighting to oust President Samuel Doe, said the seven-month-old conflict was an internal affair and any foreign intervention would be an infringement of national sovereignty.

"It is not fair, it is not proper, it is illegal," he said. "But I hope good sense will prevail."

Forces under Taylor and rival rebel leader Prince Johnson surrounded Monrovia, where Doe is clinging to power in his heavily-fortified seafront mansion.

International pressure for some sort of foreign action to end the war has mounted since 600 civilians were massacred, allegedly by government troops, in a Monrovia church last Sunday.

Taylor also warned the United States against sending in its 2,000-strong marine task force, which has stood off the Liberian coast for several weeks ready to evacuate U.S. nationals from the besieged capital.

"If the United States intervenes here it is because she doesn't want an NPFL govern-

ment, not to save Liberian lives," Taylor said.

"Let no one believe they are going to design a plan to enslave us by saying they are coming to rescue us."

Taylor accused anonymous figures in Washington of arming and supporting Johnson, whose smaller forces are pitted against the main NPFL. But he was anxious to avoid blaming President George Bush.

"That bureaucracy is so big that anything could happen," he said, citing as an example the Iran-contra scandal, when funds from illegal U.S. arms sales to Iran were diverted to aid Nicaraguan rebels.

But he said substantial U.S. aid to Doe during his 10-year rule meant Washington must share some of the blame for what he called Doe's crimes.

Taylor said his own men were already helping U.S. and Nigerian civilians to leave the country, as well as nationals of other African states.

Taylor, who has already declared himself president, said he would send three of his newly-nominated ministers to a crisis summit of West African heads of state in the Gambian capital Banjul on Monday.

The NPFL representatives, including prominent spokesman Tom Woewiyi, would seek talks with African and Western countries, he said.

"We will continue to insist that this is an internal matter," he added.

In Nairobi, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Herman Cohen said he was anticipating some sort of United Nations initiative "within a matter of days, if not hours."

In Monrovia, reporters cruising by car through the streets briefly came under fire, but the source of the shooting could not be determined. The rival rebel force loyal to Charles Taylor was nowhere to be seen.

Romanian authorities free student leader

BUCHAREST, Romania (AP) — Authorities freed a student leader jailed six weeks ago for his role in an anti-government protest, and they indicated Friday that Marian Munteanu's arrested colleagues may also be released.

Munteanu called a news conference and pressed the government to let them go.

Prosecutor-General Gheorghe Robu told state-run radio that Nica Leon, Dumitru Dinca and other leaders of the 53-day demonstration "may also be released."

But he said investigation of their activities was continuing. Like Munteanu, their detention began in mid-June, when police violently dispersed the protest in university square in the centre of Bucharest.

The crackdown set off attacks on government buildings by angry crowds, and president Ion Iliescu called in miners to come to the aid of the government. The miners terrorised the city in a two-day rampage against people they saw as government opponents. Six people were killed, according to the official count.

Robu said Munteanu was released last Thursday because conditions had changed there no longer was reason to fear he

would disturb the peace.

Late Friday night, about 100 demonstrators gathered briefly in university square for the fourth time this week, chanting "down with Communism" and "down with Iliescu."

Munteanu, president of the Bucharest University student league, said he now believes "justice will be done... and the others will be released."

Describing his imprisonment, Munteanu said Friday: "It was a nightmare... the food, the people around me, everything. These six weeks of detention have aged me many years, I am physically weak; I feel 80 years old."

The 28-year-old student leader was badly beaten by the miners and hospitalised last June. He was arrested days later.

Munteanu said the 53-day rally was not anti-government, but pro-democracy. The protesters said former Communists play too large a role in Romania's government and that former Communist Iliescu should quit.

Iliescu won in elections last May, following Romania's December revolution in which Communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu was overthrown and executed.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Bulgarian Muslims plan own school

SOFIA (R) — Bulgaria's Muslim minority, granted religious freedom after years of repression under ousted Communist leader Todor Zhivkov, will open its own school later this year, a community spokesman has said. Chief Mufti Nedim Hafaz Ibrahim Gendjev told Bulgarian television the Muslim school would open in Sofia in the autumn and appealed for the country's 1.5 million-strong Muslim community to make donations. The school will be the first opportunity for formal Islamic education in Bulgaria since the introduction of Zhivkov's notorious cultural assimilation programme in the mid 1980s, which forced the country's large ethnic Turkish and Pomak Muslim minorities to give up their names and other religious rights. The forced assimilation sparked an exodus of more than 360,000 ethnic Turks to Turkey in 1989 and drew widespread condemnation abroad. Bulgaria's reform Communist leaders, who ousted Zhivkov last November, were swift to restore the minority's rights. But their concessions stirred nationalist fears in ethnic Turkish regions that the minority would seek autonomy. An agreement forged between Nationalists, Muslims, government and opposition at the beginning of the year to reduce ethnic tension stressed that Bulgarian should be the official language in all schools and other places of work.

Soyuz docks with Mir space station

MOSCOW (R) — A Soviet Soyuz spacecraft carrying a two-man replacement crew docked with the orbiting Mir space station on Friday, TASS news agency said. The TM-10 spacecraft, launched on Wednesday, carried cosmonauts Gennady Manakov and Gennady Strekalov, who are due to spend 132 days aboard Mir. Their work will concentrate on microelectronics and producing high-quality crystals. They are also due to make two space walks. The present crew, Anatoly Solovoy and Alexander Balandina, is due to return to earth next Thursday. The pair spent hours in space two weeks ago repairing loose insulation on their Soyuz craft. Another team, including a Japanese cosmonaut, is to visit Mir by December.

Sweden extradites hijacker to Soviet Union

STOCKHOLM (R) — A second teenage hijacker who commandeered an Aeroflot passenger plane to Stockholm was extradited to the Soviet Union Friday. Police at Stockholm's Arlanda airport said they handed Ukrainian Anatoly Mikhailenko, 19, to Soviet police aboard a scheduled Aeroflot flight which left for Moscow. Mikhailenko, who forced a plane to divert to Sweden on June 30, had requested asylum on the grounds that he had been active in Ukrainian nationalist politics and had dodged military service. He staged a hunger strike in an attempt to win a delay, but abandoned it late on Thursday after 24 hours. "He is a bit pathetic but in generally good condition," said police superintendent Stig Ericsson. It was only the second extradition by Sweden to the Soviet Union since 1946. The first was on July 17 when the Swedish government deported 17-year-old Dmitri Semenyov, who began a spree of hijacking when he diverted a domestic flight to Stockholm on June 9. The Swedish supreme court on Wednesday postponed a hearing on whether to extradite a third Soviet hijacker, 18-year-old Mikhail Mokretsov, after he tried to commit suicide by slashing both wrists in his cell.

Bulgarian opposition rules out coalition

SOFIA (R) — Bulgaria's main opposition grouping, the Union of Democratic Forces, on Friday chose a new leader who immediately reaffirmed his movement would not join the renamed Communists in a coalition government. "UDF will cooperate with all parties and organisations in the name of Bulgaria's future. But UDF will not agree to a combination which will blur the distinction between us and the Communist party," Petar Beron told Reuters. Beron, a former dissident and ecology activist, was appointed to replace Zhelyu Zhelev who was elected head of state on Wednesday. He added that the UDF's 15 constituent movements would offer constructive opposition to the former Communists, now renamed the Socialist Party, who won elections in June. UDF has repeatedly refused to join the Socialists in government, dissociating itself from any responsibility for the economic crisis and nationalist tensions left by 35 years of Communist rule by Todor Zhivkov. Zhivkov was ousted last November. The UDF won 144 parliamentary seats against the Socialists' 211 in the June elections.

East Germany to renew ban on rightists

EAST BERLIN (R) — East Germany said Friday it was trying to renew a ban on the West German Republicans, stopping the extreme right-wing party from running in all-German elections in October. An application to ban the Bavaria-based party, which last year made big inroads into Chancellor Helmut Kohl's conservative vote, has been submitted to East Germany's supreme court by parliament President Sabine Bergmann-Pohl. A spokesman for Bergmann-Pohl said the Republicans violated East German electoral law, which bans parties with Fascist, militarist, racist and anti-humanitarian objectives. East Germany earlier banned the party, which currently commands less than three per cent in West German polls, from running in the country's first democratic elections in March. But barring the Republicans in East Germany could raise constitutional problems for this year's pan-German elections, as the Republicans are legal in West Germany.

Taiwan denies fishermen suffocated

TAIPEI (R) — Taiwan's defence ministry on Saturday denied China's charges that 25 Chinese fishermen suffocated after Taiwanese authorities nailed them into the hold of their own boat and sent them back to the mainland.

The ministry said the 25 were among a group of 76 returned to mainland China aboard a fishing vessel on July 21.

The allegation was made Friday by Chinese state radio, which quoted a man who claimed to be the sole survivor of the ordeal. The boat was allegedly found beached in China's Fujian province on July 22. China demanded that Taipei investigate the case.

The Taiwan defence ministry denied that any of the Chinese had been nailed into the hold of the fishing boat. It said some were confined to the bridge and the rest assigned to five cabins. The boat was then escorted to international waters by the Taiwan navy.

The ministry did not say how it had determined that the 25 cited by China were included in the larger group.

Defence Minister Chen Li-an questioned China's motives for releasing the report more than 10 days after the incident was supposed to have occurred. He told reporters that Taiwan had returned more than 3,000 Chinese fishermen in recent years and there had been no reports of similar incidents.

Kaunda's son may face murder charges

LUSAKA (R) — A Zambian coroner ruled on Friday that the son of President Kenneth Kaunda must be charged with the murder of a young woman in Lusaka last September.

After an inquest lasting more than four months, coroner Peter Chitengi found that the death of 20-year-old Tabeth Mwanza, who was shot through the back of the head, was murder.

"I admit I fired the fatal shot which killed her," Kambarage Kaunda told the inquest on Wednesday.

The director of public prosecution will now decide whether to prosecute Kambarage and companion Rafik Mohammad Mullah.

Kambarage 25, said he and Mullah were defending themselves against a group of people who approached their car.

"My intention was not to kill or wound. My intention was to defend myself and my life," he told the inquest.

Witnesses have said the two, who were returning from a late night party, shot at Mwanza and her group for no reason.

More bodies recovered from Trinidad's foiled coup attempt

PORT-OF-SPAIN, Trinidad (AP) — Soldiers removed seven more bodies Friday from a bombed police station, the parliament and a TV building, raising to at least 38 the death toll from a failed coup attempt and subsequent looting.

Muslim extremists held hostages for six days before surrendering Wednesday.

Army spokesman Maj. Dave Williams said seven additional bodies were recovered by noon from wrecked buildings.

Authorities also said that a fire of undetermined origin destroyed a storage area and an apartment Thursday night at the Jamaat Al Muslimeen commune's compound on the outskirts of Port-of-Spain, the capital of this Caribbean island.

Abu Bakr, the commune's leader, and 112 of his followers were being held at army headquarters after giving up on Wednesday and releasing their remaining 46 hostages. Prime minister Arthur N.R. Robinson and several of his cabinet ministers were among the total of 55 hostages held by the rebels.

Government spokesman Gregory Shaw has said the militants could face a variety of charges, including murder, kidnapping and treason, which carries the death penalty.

Shaw said Jazeni Omowale, a 21-year-old student from Howard University in Washington, D.C., had been killed Wednesday in a gunfight involving police and soldiers in the capital's Champs Fleurs suburb. He was believed to be Bakr's stepson. The circumstances of gunfight were unknown.

For the first time since the siege began on July 27, soldiers entered the parliament building. Williams said the bodies of three civilians and one rebel were removed from the building, along with homemade grenades and about 40 handguns.

He said two other bodies were pulled from the rubble of the police station. The building was demolished by a car bomb and fire during the siege.

A seventh body, that of a rebel, was discovered at the government's television station, where 29 employees were held captive. Police sealed off the television station to search for any explosives left by rebels.

Shaw said earlier at least 30 people were killed in the initial assault by Bakr and his men and in subsequent looting. The discovery of the bodies Friday and the killing of the American student brought the total to 38.

Lennox Williams, administrator of Port-of-Spain general hospital, said autopsies found at least 14 people died of gunshot wounds. He said most were killed by security forces during looting.

A state of emergency remained in effect Friday and soldiers and police patrolled the capital. An 18-hour curfew was reduced from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., however, and Shaw said banks would open Sunday to help residents resume normal business as soon as possible.

A 150-member U.S. regional force was dispatched to this island nation of more than 1.2 million to guard installations and relieve the local forces for patrols.

Food and medical supplies were being flown in from the United States, Canada and near-by Venezuela.

German dream nears reality

EAST BERLIN (R) — Long a distant dream for many Germans, the unification of West and East Germany now looks like becoming a reality less than 12 months after the East's hardline Communist leaders were ousted.

East German Prime Minister Lothar de Maiziere called on Friday for pan-German elections on October 14, advancing the date by two months to prevent his country's economic collapse.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl, his eye firmly on the top job in a united Germany, welcomed the proposal of his fellow Christian Democrat. They will probably get their way.

"This is the Germans' chance to achieve the unification of their fatherland 12 months after the Honecker regime began to crumble," he told West German television.

He was referring to former East German Communist Party chief Erich Honecker who quit last October in the face of a pro-democracy uprising that later breached the Berlin Wall.

"A dream is becoming reality," the beaming chancellor said at his holiday resort in the Austrian Alps.

The Social Democrats (SPD), part of de Maiziere's coalition but in opposition in the West, were less ecstatic, complaining they had not been told about shifting the date from December 2.

"We all agree de Maiziere played a dirty trick," one SPD source in East Berlin said after a

party meeting. But the SPD stopped short of saying it would quit the cabinet in protest.

"It was questionable, to put it mildly, the way the October 14 date came about. The East German SPD was not even asked," commented the West German mass-circulation Bild newspaper.

"Yet (the SPD) can throw a fit, make threats or leave the coalition — but nothing else," it said.

The economic crisis is so grave and the unification process so relentless that a coalition crisis would hardly make any difference and could even tar the SPD as unpatriotic.

Moscow said the October 14 plan could pre-empt a European settlement of unification's strategic aspects, which are being sorted out in "two-plus-four" talks between the Germans and the four World War II allies that could end by September.

Countering arguments that he had changed stance by calling for an earlier election date, de Maiziere told West German television he always had been for the fastest possible unification to help spur economic recovery.

Nothing was now in the way because economic union had been achieved last month, a draft political treaty presented on Friday and the two-plus-four talks were likely to be wrapped up next month, he said.

"The people don't want a mud fight. They want a government that can operate," he added.

Sandinista, government fight over farm ownership

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (AP) — A swarm of government sympathisers armed with clubs and machetes Friday cleared out 150 Sandinista peasants who had seized a ranch belonging to a cabinet minister. Four people were reported hurt in the fighting.

Leopoldo Siles Blanco, regional secretary of the pro-Sandinista farm workers association, told reporters about 315 anti-Sandinista peasants retook the ranch belonging to Agriculture Minister Roberto Rondon.

Rondon's El Hato ranch near Jinagala, 190 kilometres southeast of Managua, has been seized by members of the association on Wednesday.

Siles Blanco said four of his people were hurt and a fifth was missing but gave no details.

"This action is not going to frighten members of the association and in the next few hours they might take over other ranches in the area," Siles Blanco said.

Thursday night, about 60 Sandinistas — also armed with

clubs and machetes — seized the privately-owned Santa Juliana ranch in the Jinagala area. Siles Blanco said the peasants acted in retaliation for takeovers in recent weeks of Sandinista cooperative farms.

In an effort to stave off a general strike threatened by Sandinistas, President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro's administration Friday night increased salaries for about 65,000 employees in the central government.

Labour Minister Francisco Rosales announced at a news conference a 60 per cent increase for employees making \$35.71 to \$71.74 and a flat \$36 for those making over \$71.74.

Rosales said the increases were part of an agreement reached with the Sandinistas to raise government salaries in August to compensate for inflation. The agreement was one of several that put an end to a violent Sandinista strike.

Thursday night, the 150,000-member National Workers Front threatened its third and largest labour action since the United National Opposition

Coalition of Mrs. Chamorro took office on April 25.

Lucio Jimenez, leader of the National Workers Front, told a news conference that his federation plans a walkout of all Sandinista unions because more than 1,000 government employees were fired, despite promises nobody would be laid off.

Jimenez complained that currency devaluations over the last three months have reduced the purchasing power of the 150,000 government workers by 90 per cent, despite pay raises.

He said that people can't pay for water and electricity because the government has eliminated subsidies for public services in its attempt to reduce its large financial deficit.

Jimenez also complained that despite an accord in which the government promised not to privatise state-owned lands, large farms, with machinery and silos, have been rented to "large landowners close to the government."

Six people were killed and

about were 100 injured in clashes between Sandinista supporters and opponents in the last Sandinista-led strike, held in July. The strikers erected barricades, paralyzing the capital of Managua and disrupting the rest of the nation.

Edgardo Garcia, chief of the Sandinista Farmworkers Association, said the government has not lived up to agreements that ended the July strike, including limits on the amount of land distributed by Sandinistas that could be returned to former owners.

Police spokesman Miguel Centeno said police lines were set up at the private ranch owned by Chester Noguera, leader of the Nicaraguan Farmers and Ranchers Federation, that was taken over Thursday.

Mrs. Chamorro's 14-party United National Opposition defeated the Sandinistas in elections last February and took power in April in this central American nation of about 3.5 million people.



Dial a pope

VATICAN CITY (R) — From Aug. 2 anybody, anywhere can pick up a telephone and listen to Pope John Paul. The Vatican said that callers to the new Holy See numbers would, for a fee, hear two minutes' worth of recent papal speeches in English, Spanish or Italian. The fees will help pay for the travels of the pontiff, the most widely-travelled in history.

Britain roasts

LONDON (R) — Railway tracks buckled, airport runways bubbled and ice-making machines overheated as Britain roasted in record-equaling temperatures Friday. The meteorological office said temperatures recorded at Cambridge and Barbourne in central England rose to 36.7 degrees centigrade — unofficially equalling the record that has stood since 1911. At London's Heathrow airport, the main runway was closed for several hours when the sizzling temperature affected newly-laid tarmac. Delays built up after British Rail said trains would be restricted to 80 mph because the searing heat was making rails expand.

Big Ben gets heat stroke

LONDON (R) — Soaring temperatures took their toll on London's Big Ben, as the famous chiming clock "suffered" what appeared to be a heat breakdown for the second day running at exactly the same time. The clock on the 130-year-old tower at London's Houses of Parliament stopped at 5.20 p.m. local time and had to be restarted by engineering staff. Officials said the exact cause of the stoppages was being investigated but Britain's heat-wave was thought to be to blame.

Cocoa-break time in Ghana

ACCRA (R) — They've stopped tea breaks and coffee breaks at Ghana's cocoa board — they stop for a chocolate drink instead. The aim is to get people to consume more of the West African country's main commodity, as recommended by the International Producers' Organisation.

Couple videotaped their death wish

LOS ANGELES (R) — A wealthy California couple committed suicide after sending a relative a videotape explaining that they wanted to "end it all" while they were still successful, police said. Police Sergeant Chet Barry said police found the bodies of Anaheim real estate broker Douglas Ridenour, 48, and his wife Dana, 45, in their million-dollar home after Ridenour's brother told them about a videotape he received in the mail in which they said they decided to kill themselves months ago. When police went to the couple's house, they found the two bodies lying on separate sofas. Each had been shot once in the head with a 12-gauge shotgun. They had been dead for about 48 hours, when he found on Aug. 1. "They decided they reached the age where they have gone as far as they are going to go," Barry said. The couple explained in the tape they had achieved financial success and wanted to "end it all" while they were still on top, he added.

Yale degree at 85

NEW HAVEN, Connecticut (AP) — Daniel Wynkoop took nearly 65 years off after his junior year at Yale, but now at age 85 he's no longer a college dropout. At the start of Wynkoop's senior year, he was forced to leave the school because he had gotten married over the summer — the summer of 1925. He could have returned the next year as a married student, but ended up waiting more than 65 years to complete the seven credits he needed for a Yale degree. "I finally had the time and the money. I asked my brother (a 1926 Yale graduate) what I ought to do with it, and he said, 'why don't you finish school.' So I did," said Wynkoop, a retired encyclopedia salesman who lives in St. Petersburg, Florida. His three years at Yale qualified him as an alumnus, and he attended reunions over the years with other old blues from the class of 1926. But Wynkoop wanted a degree. So he signed up for Yale summer school, completing five courses over three summers, along with a Spanish class at another college.